THE TIMES

No. 66,468 — TUESDAY MARCH 23 1999 — http://www.the-times.co.uk

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BBC surrenders in TV ratings war and goes back to nature

By Carol Midgley
Media Correspondent

THE BBC bowed out of the populist ratings war with ITV yesterday, signalling a return to its traditional strengths of popular science, quality drama and natural history.

It unveiled a spring and summer schedule of programmes with a stronger emphasis on serious factual programmes, education and drama and the virtual absence of "mass appeal" game shows and docu-soaps.

The new schedule — which includes an epic adaptation of Dickens's *Great Expectations* starring Charlotte Rampling; a history of Sikhism and a series on the thinkers Nietzsche, Heidegger and Sartre — appears to mark a shift in the BBC's strategy after months of being accused of chasing ratings by appealing to the lowest common denominator.

Executives were said to be chastened by backlash over *Vanessa*, the daytime programme which featured hoax guests, and it recently dropped its much vilified Saturday night flagship programme Noel's House Party, hosted by Noel Edmonds, saying it was "rethinking and retuning" Saturday evening entertainment.

Executives are anxious to emphasise the corporation's public service credentials at a time when the Government is examining its future role and funding, and traditionalists are expected to welcome the new schedules as a return to the Reithian values of informing and educating the viewer.

Alan Yentob, the BBC's director of television, said that the £320 million spring package was "reminding people of what the BBC is here for", and the new schedule is accompanied by a new motto: "Range and ambition you won't find anywhere else at peaktime."

Insiders said the phrase was coined to distinguish the BBC from its "downmarket" rivals, and executives said yesterday that they would not compete for viewers on ITV's terms.

Since ITV scrapped *News at Ten* earlier this month BBC1 has faced fiercer competition from ITV programmes and its share of the audience has dropped below the critical 30 per cent level. Experts have long predicted that the end of *News at Ten* would be a defining moment for the BBC but it has also been been hit badly by the game show *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*, which has attracted audiences of up to 19 million.

Mr Yentob admitted yesterday: "It is like an exocet missile through the schedules but the BBC could not broadcast that programme. We cannot give away that kind of prize money."

And of the impact of the demise of *News at Ten*, he said: "We do not feel that after a couple of weeks of ITV doing well we have to reinvent the rules . . . but we do want to remind people of the BBC's strengths. It's a long game and [audience] share is not the only objective. Clearly our competitors are stronger than they were — that's the environment we have to live in — but there are added values the BBC can bring and we are not going to forsake them for the sake of audience share.

"It is different to ITV. ITV can forsake the news in peak time, the BBC cannot and will not do that."

Peter Salmon, the controller of BBC1, added: "We want to do more than chase ratings. Just being popular is good for some but not good enough for the BBC. We have to look across all our strands and make sure we are not deserting the values of public service broadcasting."

ITV insiders, however, claimed that the BBC was "waving the white flag" at popular entertainment and admitting that it could no longer compete.

The Auntie factor, page 3

Straw bid to block release of IRA men

By Martin Fletcher, Philip Webster and Richard Ford

JACK STRAW enraged Irish republicans at a crucial stage in the peace process last night by challenging the imminent release of four top IRA prisoners, including the Brighton bomber Patrick Magee.

The Home Secretary successfully sought a judicial hearing which will be held this morning to prevent Paul Kavanagh, Thomas Quigley and Gerard McDonnell being released from the Maze today, and Magee from being freed in June.

His move — announced by Downing Street — came at the beginning of what Mo Mowlam described as "one of the most critical weeks in Northern Ireland in recent years". She is urgently seeking a way to procure IRA disarmament before next week so that Sinn Fein can join Northern Ireland's new executive and the Good Friday peace accord be saved. But Mr Straw's intervention looked set to strengthen the republicans' resolve to hold on to their arms.

The Home Office said Mr Straw was merely seeking to clarify the law. Some sources in London said that he had consulted Dr Mowlam but admitted that she was not happy about his intervention. Others went further and suggested that the Government was signalling to Sinn Fein that there would be a heavy penalty to pay if the IRA did not disarm.

Gerry Kelly, Sinn Fein's prisons spokesman, accused Mr Straw of interfering with the Good Friday agreement, described his behaviour as unacceptable, and insisted that he should abide by the independent Sentence Review Commission's decision to release the men. Another senior Sinn Fein source expressed disbelief. "It certainly doesn't create the sort of backdrop that will help anyone over the next ten days."

Andrew Mackay, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, applauded the delay in the prisoners' release, but said the Government appeared to be "in disarray with a lack of co-ordination between departments".

Mr Straw is challenging when, not whether, the four men should be released under the Good Friday accord. The men were sentenced in England, where the "tariffs" - or minimum terms - of life sentence prisoners are far longer than those imposed by Northern Ireland's courts. Three of the four received 50 years tariffs, and McDonnell — a cousin of Gerry Adams — 25 years.

The Sentence Review Commission uses a mathematical formula to determine when terrorist prisoners should be released. Based on the English tariffs, it originally decided that the four should remain in jail until July next year — the last date for releasing prisoners under the accord. But the prisoners successfully challenged that ruling and the Commission yesterday brought their release dates forward. Within hours, Mr Justice Girvan sitting in Belfast's High Court granted the Home Office a judicial hearing which will be heard today.

A Downing Street spokesman said Mr Straw was "being absolutely insistent on due process" and had no political motive. If he did not "clarify" the terms of the accord, someone else would have challenged the Commission's ruling in the courts.

The four prisoners are among the most infamous IRA inmates in the Maze, and their release would inevitably cause an outcry. Magee, aged 47, masterminded the 1984 Brighton bomb

Continued on page 2, col 6



ANTHONY UPTON

Lorries blocking Park Lane, London, from Hyde Park Corner and Apsley House (bottom, left) as drivers demonstrated yesterday against Budget increases in diesel fuel and road tax. Page 4

Clinton warns Americans of Kosovo action

From Tom Walker in Belgrade and Ian Brodie

PRESIDENT Clinton last night gave President Milosevic his last chance to agree to a Kosovo peace deal and escape Nato airstrikes. But the Yugoslav leader's political and military regime seemed set on confrontation with the West.

As Richard Holbrooke, the senior American negotiator in the Balkans, went into final peace talks with Slobodan Milosevic, Mr Clinton prepared the American public for the likelihood of Nato action against Serbia. "I hope it can be achieved by peaceful means. But if not, we have to be prepared to act," he said.

Mr Clinton said that since the suspension of the Paris peace talks a week ago more than 30,000 people had fled their homes, bringing the total number of refugees to 250,000, or one in eight of the entire population of the province.

Addressing himself to a sceptical public, he emphasised the importance of keeping the peace in Europe and containing a conflict which could engulf the Balkans.

However, there were few hints of compromise from Belgrade, where Serb leaders continued to defy the West, while their forces went on the rampage in several villages in Kosovo. Despite transforming his society into virtually the poorest in Europe, Mr Milosevic seemed to have the support of his alienated people for an apparently doomed clash with Nato's superior weaponry.

It was Mr Holbrooke's 41st trip to Belgrade for emergency talks over the last decade and probably his last. "We've reached the edge," he said. "Time is running out."

Against a background of the most ferocious "cleansing" operations yet seen in Kosovo from the Serb security forces, Mr Holbrooke appeared on television and appealed to the nation to accept Nato peacekeepers in the southern province.

Journalists leaving yesterday reported seeing dozens of villages on fire in an operation chillingly reminiscent of the Bosnian war. The Yugoslav military police continued to issue mobilisation papers, and doctors were banned from leaving the country.

Peter Riddell, page 10
Scorched earth, page 11

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US steps up trade war over hormone beef

By Carl Mortished and Valerie Elliott

THE United States opened a new flank in its trade war with Europe yesterday by threatening to impose punitive tariffs on $900 million (£542 million) of European agricultural exports in retaliation for a ten-year-old ban on hormone-treated beef imports from the US.

The products threatened with hefty duties and likely to hurt British exporters include beef, pork and poultry products, as well as onions, carrots, cut flowers and chocolate. The list will also worry French producers of Roquefort cheese, foie gras and truffles, all of which are threatened with sanctions. Motorcycles and hair driers are also targeted.

Britain intends to renew pressure on the European Union to lift the ban on the beef; ministers believe that consumers should decide whether they buy and eat the products. Whitehall sources suggested last night that the issue would be raised at the Council of Ministers meeting in Berlin tonight and tomorrow.

The preliminary list of products will be narrowed, probably to between $300 million and $500 million worth of EU exports. They will be subject to crippling tarriffs by June 12 if Europe fails to lift its ban on the US beef. Charlene Barshefsky, the US trade representative, said: "The EU's ten-year arbitrary and scientifically unjustified ban on US beef has had a substantial negative impact on US beef producers."

Ambassador Peter Scher, the US special trade negotiator, said that America was prepared to discuss a labelling regime for US beef. However, Mr Scher said that the EU had not been willing to give a commitment that it would both implement a labelling regime and lift the ban.

The European Commission dismissed the US move last night as procedural and said talks about labelling and compensation were continuing. Privately, EU officials say America was prepared to identify its produce only as "US beef" without identifying the presence of hormones.

The World Trade Organisation ruled in August 1997 that the beef ban was illegal and granted Brussels 15 months to conduct scientific assessments of the health risks.



"Your mum hasn't been the same since hormonal enhancement"

Duchess of York's mansion for sale

By Rachel Kelly and Michael Harvey

THE Surrey mansion bought for the Duchess of York and her two daughters by the Queen was yesterday put on the market for £1.5 million.

The Duchess refused to move into the seven-bedroom Birch Hall after claiming she could not afford the estimated £80,000 annual running costs.

Yesterday the trustees who own the house on behalf of the Duchess's daughters, Beatrice and Eugenie, put it in the hands of estate agents John D Wood. It is being offered at the same price as it was bought for last year.

The trustees, who have a legal duty to safeguard the value of the trust's assets, have been faced with a deteriorating property. It has been empty for six months and has twice been broken into.

Last night's decision came on the eve of a meeting between the trustees and the Duchess to resolve the situation. Its timing was said to have left her astonished.

The sale of Birch Hall adds another chapter to the long-running dispute between the Duchess and Buckingham Palace over her housing arrangements. The imposing Grade II listed house has five reception rooms, a library, a walk-in drinks cabinet, a tennis court, and a staff cottage. The Georgian property was built on the site of one of Henry VIII's hunting lodges.

The Duchess, 39, has preferred to remain living with the Duke of York at their former marital home Sunninghill Park.

There, to the dismay of several senior members of the Royal Family, she lives in guest lodgings and frequently eats with Prince Andrew and their daughters aged ten and nine.

Local estate agents said the sale was timed to make the most of the spring selling season. One local businessman is said to have already made an offer.

Blunkett goes to top of the class by copying Tory swots



It's so simple it's almost unbelievable, and yesterday David Blunkett demonstrated how it's done. Keep the policy and change the name. After Questions, the Education Secretary brought us an old Tory policy under a new Labour name — and government backbenchers, who would have howled with anger if a Tory had presented the idea in Tory vocabulary, cheered his every word.

At first I could not credit it. Here was Mr Blunkett, explaining how the top 10 per cent of pupils would be selected according to ability and given a different education — and there were the massed ranks of Labour MPs rising, one after the other, even left-wingers like Diane Abbott and Bernie Grant, to congratulate him.

And it was all done with words; the whole trick was in the phraseology. Key words were "excellence", "beacon", "stretched", "special needs", "rooted", and "in their own school". Because a gifted pupil had "special needs" and strove for "excellence" — rather than simply being called bright — she or he could have special treatment. Because what would be assessed would be "individual aptitudes and abilities" there was no talk of "selection" or "creaming off".

Because the child thus selected would remain "rooted" "in their own school" they could be sent to study in other, better schools without calling it segregation. Because these schools would be termed "specialist" or "beacon" schools, nobody could talk about grammar schools or elite institutions.

And when they reach them, because these kids were not to be given favoured treatment or superior teaching — but "stretched" — that was all right. Who could oppose stretching a child?

Finally, there were to be extra classes for the selected minority at their own schools. But because these were to be "after hours" or on Saturdays, this did not count as streaming within the school day.

Thus was the idea of removing the brightest and educating them separately, imported craftily back into what in name remained a "comprehensive" system of education. The Tories did not know how to get their teeth into all this and were reduced to bleating that Blunkett ought to admit that what he had come round to was their own point of view. Not surprisingly Mr Blunkett was disinclined to oblige.

For his part, the Secretary of State ranted (to rowdy support) against people in the "leafy suburbs" who wanted children separated into better and worse schools. Gerald Kaufman aimed a kick at the Tory Assisted Places Scheme, which took a few children out of state schools.

And in a flash I saw the next step. After a trial run, announce that clever inner-city kids should not be confined to "beacon" schools within their area — why should top teachers and facilities in state schools in leafy suburbs be out of bounds? — but bussed as far as their needs and talents merit. Hear, hear! Storm the leafy bastions!

And why should independent schools deny education to our top 10 per cent in inner cities? Force them to open their doors to some of the best (reimbursing them, of course). Break down the gates of the public school! Hear, hear!

Thus within a decade could we have Assisted Places, a variety of schools of different types and standards, and a fleet of buses carting kids around according to ability. And all the Labour backbenches will cheer.

So should the Tories. Theresa May, a Tory spokesman, begged Blunkett to confirm that he was bringing back selection. Mr Blunkett said. No, his aim was to "accelerate and extend". Mrs May looked cross. But when you've won the argument, why quibble about the words! Yesterday in Parliament, "the many and not the few" turned out to mean "the few and not the many". What Tory could ask for more?

Crime victims to keep check on police progress

By Richard Ford and Stewart Tendler

VICTIMS of crime will be able to scrutinise how officers investigate burglaries and assaults under Home Office plans to lift the secrecy shrouding police operations.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, is set to accept one of the key recommendations of the Macpherson report into the Stephen Lawrence inquiry that all areas of policing should be covered by a future Freedom of Information Act.

The Home Office will protect sensitive information held by police by setting a test to establish whether its release would do "substantial harm". An applicant who disagreed with such a ruling could then go to an information commissioner, who would adjudicate.

Mr Straw is expected to outline his proposal today when he announces the creation of a watchdog committee to monitor implementation of the main recommendations of the Lawrence report, which he will chair and whose members will include representatives from the Metropolitan Police, other police services, the Crown Prosecution Service and Commission for Racial Equality.

The Home Secretary will tell MPs that the Government accepts all 70 of Sir William's recommendations although this does not mean they will all be implemented. Whitehall sources have pointed out that some of the most controversial proposals have been put forward for consideration rather than execution. Among these are the proposals to make it a criminal offence to use racist language in private and to allow defendants to be tried a second time even after they have been acquitted.

But other measures have found favour in the Home Office, including allowing legal aid to be given for inquests and greater disclosure of evidence and documents to people appearing at inquests.

Under the Freedom of Information White Paper published in December 1997 the Government proposed that police would provide material on crime statistics and administration but not on individual cases. This would have meant that the public would still have to rely on a public inquiryto get detailed information on how the police handled a case.

Under the new proposals, a victim will be able to question how a case had been carried out and ask whether any officers involved in his or her case had been disciplined for racism or bad behaviour.

Countries such as the United States, Canada, France and Ireland already have legislation covering the police.

CHALLENGE TO TRIAL SECRETS

Britain could be forced to change the way crucial facts are kept secret at trials after the European Commission of Human Rights ruled yesterday that two men convicted in 1990 of murder were denied a fair trial. The commission said unanimously that the men's right to a fair trial had been breached when confidential information was withheld from the trial judge under public-interest immunity procedures.

Raphael Rowe and Michael Davis, convicted of the murder of a hairdresser and of a series of robberies close to the M25, were also treated unfairly by the appeal court. It had not heard representations from their lawyers about whether the secret material should be disclosed, and the proceedings were in private.

The Government said last night that it would fight the case at the full hearing and had no plans to change the law.

DENIS BALIBOUSE



Brian Jones is reunited with his wife Joanna, who was waiting at the foot of the aircraft steps with a red rose

Glory day for balloon heroes

From Helen Rumbelow in Geneva

ONE of the privileges of being the first around the world in a balloon is to silence Richard Branson.

As Brian Jones, 51, from Wiltshire, and his Swiss co-pilot Bertrand Piccard, 41, flew in from Cairo to their wives, friends and crowd of 5,000 at Geneva Airport yesterday, the Virgin tycoon arrived from London. He was kept waiting because team members were wary of him stealing the limelight.

Finally Mr Branson was allowed on the podium with his two successful rivals on condition that he was not to talk. Officials watched nervously during his appearance, when he showered Mr Piccard with champagne and kissed Mr Jones on the cheek. Afterwards Branson said: "Today is Brian and Bertrand's day. I wanted to congratulate them for achieving something which we failed to achieve."

Mr Jones said that the transition from three weeks in isolation to the throngs of cheering wellwishers left his emotions pouring over. He said: "There have been some moments in the last 21 days when my heart was beating extremely quickly, but never as fast as in this last hour."

The greatest affect on his heart was the sight of his wife, Joanna, after the longest time they have spent apart since their marriage nine years ago tomorrow. Immediately after punching the air with Mr Piccard as they emerged from the plane, Mr Jones walked slowly down the steps towards his wife, who was waiting with a single red rose. They hugged and kissed for several minutes. Holding his hand at a series of interviews and autograph signings, Mrs Jones, 45, said it was bizarre that her husband, a ballooning instructor, was suddenly in the history books.

Mr Jones said he still did not understand why their attempt was successful: "The strangest part was when we didn't know if we had enough fuel to get over the Atlantic. As I was doing frantic calculations, the speed dial started going from 40 to 50 to 70 to 90 knots. I knew then we were going to make it. It felt like we were being pulled." The capsule will go to the Smithsonian Museum, Washington DC.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man held after boy is found dead

The body of a seven-year-old boy has been found in Stoke-on-Trent. The child was found after a search of outhouse buildings at a home in the town, in Staffordshire, yesterday afternoon. Police have launched a murder inquiry.

Investigating officers confirmed that they knew the identity of the child, but were refusing to release his name until a post-mortem examination had been carried out.

Police said: "The child's body was found by officers as a result of a police search. The child had not been reported missing from home but officers had been investigating the circumstances surrounding the disappearance and whereabouts of a seven-year-old boy since Friday."

A man aged 30 has been arrested in connection with the death on suspicion of murder.

Rugby star fined

Jason Leonard, the England and British Lions rugby union prop, was fined £865 and ordered to pay £300 costs by Feltham magistrates yesterday after he admitted careless driving and leaving the scene of an accident in Chiswick, West London, last July. His licence was endorsed with seven penalty points.

Rail crash ruling

Balfour Beatty has been fined £500,000 under the Health and Safety at Work Act. The rail maintenance company was told by a judge at Chelmsford Crown Court that a freight train was derailed in Essex in September 1997 because the company's workers failed to provide themselves with the right equipment.

Kurdish TV risk

Med-TV, the Kurdish satellite television channel broadcast from London, could be forced off the air permanently because of programmes containing incitements to violence. The Independent Television Commission suspended Med-TV's licence for 21 days pending a decision on whether to revoke its licence.

Flight departure

Air France is likely to phase out Concorde because of high maintenance costs. The decision by the French flag carrier to withdraw its fleet of seven Concordes would leave British Airways as the main user of the supersonic aircraft. British Airways said: "We expect to be flying Concorde for many years to come."

Sex-change win

A man who had a sex-change has won the right to join the police as a WPC. An employment tribunal has ruled that West Yorkshire Police was wrong to end the training of the unnamed person after 14 months. The force was concerned over possible problems with full body searches of suspects.

Bishop banned

A bishop was fined £500 for drink-driving and banned from the roads for a year. The Right Rev Douglas Cameron, 63, the Episcopalian bishop of Argyll and the Isles, admitted being almost double the legal limit when he drove erratically near Oban. The Church hierarchy said it retained the utmost confidence in him.

Smear tests 'are done too young'

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

CERVICAL smear-testing for cancer among young women is illogical, ill-judged and not cost-effective, according to a survey by doctors.

More lives would be saved by dropping cervical testing altogether and increasing the maximum age for breast cancer screening by five years to 69, the study by the Wolfson Institute of Preventive Medicine at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, says. If there is to be cervical screening it would be better to offer it exclusively to the 65 to 69 age group, the report in today's *Journal of Medical Screening* adds.

The authors say the age at which people are invited for cancer screening is somewhat arbitrary. Breast screening is offered to women aged 50 to 64 and cervical smear screening to those aged 20 to 64.

The authors have calculated the years of life lost from cancer per 10,000 people by working out the death rate from each cancer at different ages and comparing it with life expectancy. For example, there are 5.5 deaths from breast cancer per 10,000 women aged 50 each year. Life expectancy at that age is 80.7 years, so each woman who dies loses a potential 30.7 years of life. This amounts to a total of 169 lost years per 10,000 women.

The report says that, if screening were provided only if at least 50 years of life could be saved per 10,000 women examined, then breast cancer screening would be offered only to those aged 50 to 59. If the threshold were lowered to 25 years of life saved per 10,000 women, then the age range should be 45 to 74.

Only at that level would it be rational to include cervical smears and then only for those aged 40 to 69. Since more years of life are lost from cervical cancer among women aged 70 to 74 than among women under 30, it would be sensible to confine this screening to the 64 to 69 age group.

The authors say one difficult issue is whether life is less valuable in old age than in youth. "The only issue is whether the quality or value of a day of life declines as people age."

Trade war takes the biscuit

By Shirley English

FOR Scots living abroad, Tunnock's Caramel Wafers are as much a reminder of home as Marmite is for the English. But now expatriates in the United States will have to do without, for a time at least.

The 15p chocolate-covered chewy wafer with the gold and red tiger-stripe wrapper has fallen victim to the 100 per cent import tax set by America in its "banana war" with Europe.

Despite the biscuit's low price, this traditional feature of Scottish tea-times has been classified as European "luxury goods", joining 16 other items, including cashmere knitwear.

Boyd Tunnock, managing director of the 109-year-old family firm, was hit with a £25,000 duty bill when a shipment of 400,000 wafers arrived in New York. Mr Tunnock, 65, said that future exports would be suspended.

But, as 90 per cent of his trade is at home, with 1 per cent heading to the United States, the 600 jobs at the factory in Uddingston, near Glasgow, are not under threat.

Bomb-plot confession 'is fake'

ONE of eight Britons charged with a bomb plot in Yemen told a court yesterday that an alleged confession was produced under torture by police. After hearing the judge read out the detailed confession, Malik Harhra, 26, replied: "I said nothing of the sort. Maybe I signed a document but I did not know what was in it."

Mr Harhra, from Birmingham, is said to have admitted being sent to Yemen by London-based Islamic cleric, Abu Hamza al-Masri, to bomb British and US targets. Mr Harhra also allegedly admitted to undergoing military training with a group called Islamic Jihad in Yemen. The accused say they were in Yemen on holiday or to learn Arabic. The trial continues.

Straw's appeal

Continued from page 1

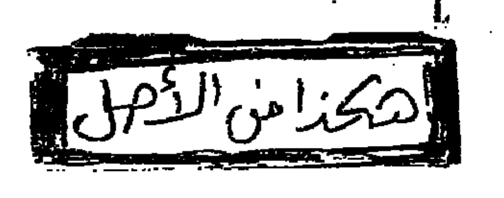
which killed five people and very nearly destroyed Baroness Thatcher and her cabinet. He was given eight life sentences in 1986 and described by the judge as "a man of exceptional cruelty and inhumanity".

Paul Kavanagh and Thomas Quigley were both part of the IRA unit responsible for the Chelsea barracks bomb and other notorious attacks on London targets in 1981. Both received five life sentences in 1985, and Kavanagh's judge commented: "It may be that no Home Secretary will ever think it is right to release you."

McDonnell, 49, was given a life sentence in 1986 for his part in a plot to bomb English seaside resorts.

Even before Mr Straw's intervention, the 80 IRA prisoners left in the Maze had ruled out any goodwill gesture on decommissioning to rescue the accord. Mr Kelly, emerging from a six-hour meeting with the prisoners, declared: "Not a single prisoner suggested there should be any movement on decommissioning."

The prisoners are regarded as the conscience of the republican movement, and it would be almost impossible for Sinn Fein's leaders to act without their support.



Auntie lowers her expectations

Corporation gets back to basics by seeking ratings for quality, not quantity, writes Carol Midgley

THE Auntie factor returned to the BBC yesterday as executives revealed that they would fight ITV's big guns with a diet of costume drama and educational programmes.

There was a conspicuous absence of glitz and glamour at the schedule launch as the BBC named among its highlights an epic series on the history of the planets and *Tobacco Wars*, another documentary examining the real cost of smoking, to be presented by Michael Buerk.

Of its 70 new documentaries the BBC, which created the public voracity for docu-soaps with the likes of *Driving School* and *Lakesiders*, has included only four in its spring and summer schedule.

Instead it is hoping to bring culture to the masses via Tony Marchant's adaptation of Dickens's *Great Expectations* and turning Elizabeth Gaskell's unfinished novel *Wives and Daughters* into a four-part drama under the guidance of Andrew Davies, who adapted Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

Alan Yentob, Director of Televison at the BBC, insisted yesterday that the docu-soap was not exhausted as a genre, but said the BBC had to continue to try different things. It is refusing to follow ITV's successful scheduling since the axeing of *News at Ten* and is hoping to appeal to the public's fascination for science and natural history.

Even the BBC dramas will have an educational message. *Badger*, starring Jerome Flynn, is based on a growing area of crime — wildlife exploitation.

Life Support, a BBC1 drama starring Richard Wilson and Art Malik, is centred on the complexities of medical ethics.

Last week ITV, which showed a James Bond film and *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*, achieved 43.5 per cent share of the audience compared with BBC1's 27.5 per cent. BBC insiders say executives have decided that ratings chasing is no longer an option and emphasis on quality is the only way to ensure the BBC's survival.

Peter Salmon, Controller of BBC1 said: "This time last year the Governors were asking us to put special emphasis on popular drama. We are doing that while trying to extend our range."

Mr Yentob added that the new season would anticipate viewers' aspirations as well as catering to their wants. "This is television you just won't see anywhere else," he said.

Lenny Henry and Amanda Redman star in *Hope And Glory* about a struggling comprehensive school. A shaven-headed Dervla Kirwan will appear in Minette Walters' psychological thriller *The Dark Room*, which is expected to achieve critical acclaim.

There will also be a special programme dedicated to the total eclipse crossing southern Britain on August 11.

Professor Robert Winston, who hosted the award-winning medical series *The Human Body*, returns with a new series exploring the phenomenon of identical twins.

He will also help to launch *Millennium Babies*, to be screen in early April, about the search for the first baby of the new century.

Charlotte Rampling as Miss Havisham leads the return to the classics

WEAPONS OF WAR

BBC

6.30pm
Regional News
7.00pm
Holiday
7.30pm
Tomorrow's World
8.00pm
EastEnders
8.30pm
Great Expectations
10.00pm
The Planets
10.30pm
Tobacco Wars with Michael Buerk

☐ Not all programmes are on BBC1, some are on BBC2

ITV

6.30pm
Evening News
7.00pm
Emmerdale
7.30pm
Coronation Street
8.00pm
Who Wants to be a Millionaire
9.00pm
Bond movie

PETER JORDAN

Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? has increased ITV's audience

Gun man sent hoax bombs to Labour

By Russell Jenkins
North West Correspondent

A MAN has been jailed for sending the Labour Party's Walworth Road headquarters hoax bombs in protest at government policy on gun control.

Michael Shields, 40, a gun-club enthusiast from Sandbach, Cheshire, accused Tony Blair of ruining his sport with the tighter gun controls that followed the Dunblane massacre, a court was told. He sent 74 bogus parcel bombs to officials at John Smith House in South London. Police put the offices on heightened security alert and mail had to be redirected to a secure sorting office.

Shields, described in court as a pillar of the community and a school governor, had trawled the Internet sites of far-right American groups for ideas to terrorise those lobbying for a ban on ownership of handguns. A criminologist and a mother of a victim of the Hungerford massacre were his targets during a campaign that ended when police raided his home and found new and antique guns and ammunition.

Shields, a licensed gun-owner, is beginning a 26-month jail sentence after being sentenced at Minshull Street Crown Court in Manchester on Friday. He admitted harassment, sending hoax bombs, posting sharp instruments, possessing a prohibited weapon and criminal damage in the 12 months up to last December.

Doctor tells why he gave order to starve patient

By Michael Horsnell

A DOCTOR accused of ordering nurses to starve an elderly woman stroke patient to death said yesterday that she had choked when he put her ability to swallow food to the test.

Ken Taylor said that he visited 85-year-old Mary Ormerod in her room at Oxford House nursing home, Preston, alone only two days before ordering that her Fresubin high-protein food supplement be withdrawn and her fluid intake severely curtailed.

Dr Taylor, 51, who was in tears during his five hours of evidence, admitted that he had not disclosed the visit to her bedside before — either to police investigating her death or to the General Medical Council (GMC) — but insisted that he was telling the truth.

Mrs Ormerod, a widow, died at the home in August 1995 weighing only 3st 12lb about 58 days after the nutrition had been withdrawn. Dr Taylor, whose instruction to starve her was defied by nurses until her supplies of the supplement ran out, denies serious professional misconduct.

He told the professional conduct committee of the GMC that he ordered the withdrawal because the burden of feeding Mrs Ormerod was greater than the benefit — though nurses have said in evidence that she had normally been able to swallow her food.

Dr Taylor, a former nurse who qualified as a doctor in 1974, said: "I went into the room. There was not a nurse with me. I remember thinking that I would make an assessment myself. I looked around the room, found a feeding cup with some liquid in it — I believed it was Fresubin, but there was no packet — and I attempted to feed her.

"She was lying in bed on her side. I took off my coat, put the cot side down and I put my arm around her shoulder. I turned her into a position so she was facing upright and very slowly, deliberately introduced some of the liquid into her mouth using the feeding cup. Immediately, she made a very low grumbling choking sound, which went on for perhaps ten or fifteen seconds, and I had to stop feeding and lie her down in the position she was in when I went into the room."

Later Rosalind Foster, counsel for the GMC, asked Dr Taylor: "Why did you not tell the police that it was your personal experience, gained a couple of days before, that she had choked when you tried to feed her?"

Dr Taylor: "Because they did not ask me."

Miss Foster: "Are you telling us the truth about this visit?"

Dr Taylor: "Yes, I am."

The hearing continues.

First Wren to fly almost quit after sexual taunts

By Simon de Bruxelles
West of England Correspondent

THE first woman crew member of a Royal Navy helicopter told a court martial yesterday that she came close to quitting because of sexual harassment by her senior officer.

Leading Wren Aircrewman Bridget Turner, 33, said she put up with years of provocative comments from Warrant Officer Albert Cooper while serving on board the aircraft carrier *HMS Invincible*. Finally, unable to put up with his behaviour any longer, she requested a transfer only to find her tormenter assigned to the same base soon afterwards.

Miss Turner said that she did not complain before because she did not want her shipmates to think that women could not cope with life at sea.

She told the court at *HMS Drake* in Plymouth that the 45-year-old NCO humiliated her during crew briefings by asking her about her favourite sexual positions.



Turner: feared that she would be sent ashore

Miss Turner was one of the first two women to fly with the Fleet Air Arm when she qualified as an aircrewman on board Sea King helicopters. Her job included operating the winch during air sea rescues. She told the hearing: "During my time aboard *HMS Invincible* I wanted to leave the Navy. I did not feel I could go to anybody about what was happening because he was my divisional officer.

"He was a very powerful man and myself and another Wren were the first female aircrewmen. I did not want people to say the girls cannot hack it. My fear was I could be sent back to shore if I had a bad report from Cooper. His viewpoint was that Wrens are at sea because the lads needed sex. It was not just general crew room banter. I have been in the Navy a long time and I knew about banter. This went beyond banter."

The court also heard from Leading Wren Aircrewman Bernadette Pope, who shared the honour of being the first Wren to fly. She said: "There was just chit-chat about what we had been up to and Turner was included in the sexual banter. Turner did not appear to be offended by anything he said." The hearing continues.

Lorry drivers threaten to block ports in tax protest

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND ROLAND WATSON

LORRY drivers are threatening to block ports and motorways in a major escalation of a protest campaign that caused traffic chaos in Central London yesterday.

Drivers' leaders admitted that they were unable to prevent widespread action by hauliers angered by tax increases that, they claim, have added crippling costs on to an industry already struggling to combat overseas competition.

Up to 700 lorries converged on the Park Lane area of London, blocking off one of the main arteries through the capital for more than an hour.

However, John Reid, the Transport Minister, hardened the Government's stance, telling hauliers that he would not be held to ransom and accused some companies of working inefficiently.

As he prepared for a meeting with hauliers' leaders today, he insisted that he would not be offering concessions to the industry. He said that millions of motorists had been "penalised" by yesterday's action and said that lorry drivers were wrong to claim that taxes made British companies uncompetitive.

"It does them no justice to misrepresent the position or blame it on the Government," he said. "I have offered the path of dialogue to the hauliers but apparently they prefer the path of disruption." He backed down, however, over his previous claims that 98 per cent of lorries had had their vehicle tax rates frozen in the last Budget, lowering the figure to "more than 90 per cent". Haulage companies had complained that Dr Reid's figures were "entirely inaccurate".

Ron Wood, a haulage company owner from Sheerness, Kent, and a spokesman for the protest organisers Trans-Action, told protesters gathered in London: "If they do not listen to us today we will do it properly next time — and shut all the docks, all the motorways and all the cities. If they want us to be like the French truckers, we will be like the French truckers."

Gary Donaldson, a Northamptonshire haulier and another campaign leader added: "This is a peaceful protest to start the campaign, but it will quickly get nasty if ministers take no notice."

Fuel tax increases of 6p a litre on diesel have made it almost twice as expensive to fill a lorry with fuel as in France and many international hauliers now fill up their vehicles only when they are abroad.

The two main haulier organisations, the Freight Transport Association and Road Haulage Association, have already had talks with ministers, and refused to condone the drivers' actions, which they fear will alienate the public.

However, Karl Burt, who joined the march on Westminster, said: "All this talking has done us no good. This is the only way to get our message across."

'IF WE WERE FRENCH, WE WOULD HAVE THE BARBECUES OUT ALREADY'

STEVE CHAMBERS donated £32 to the Chancellor yesterday, but did not begrudge a penny (Alan Hamilton writes). That was duty he paid on the fuel to drive his Volvo truck from Rugby to Marble Arch to join 1,400 other juggernauts in the protest.

Blocking roads with lorries is a French sort of stunt, which they do better, bringing entire cities to a standstill. Roads into London were congested yesterday morning, but, for most of the day, the streets seemed sweetly quiet. "If we were French, we would stay here for at least a week, and we would have the barbecues out already," Mr Chambers said.

The truckers claimed widespread public support, with old ladies giving them the thumbs-up as they thundered through the countryside. Frank Stears, 51, from Faversham, Kent, who organised the protest, said he had been given a free ride by a London cabbie to Downing Street, where he asked to see the Prime Minister. His mission was a failure.

The drivers claim that British road haulage is becoming a "flag of convenience" industry, with more and more operators registering and fuelling vehicles in Belgium or Luxembourg, where fuel and the road fund licence are far cheaper. Several drivers showed off the vast extra fuel tanks, taking up to 1,500 litres, that they had had fitted. "I can save at least £200 filling up in Calais rather than Dover," Geoff Harknett, from Dartford, Kent, said. "Fine if you've got a trip over there, but not much good if you're based in Carlisle and all your work is local.

"Now the French and the Belgians are coming over and doing domestic work here: they're undercutting us because their overheads are so much lower."

Only one lorry at the protest escaped the rise in fuel duty. The 1930 Sentinel steam wagon carried a large banner declaring: "Can't afford the diesel — back to coal and steam."


Dame Shirley Porter arriving at the High Court yesterday to challenge her surcharge

Dame Shirley's back, and she means business

BY MARK HENDERSON


Weeks: also appealing

IN HER days as the leader of the Tories' showpiece town hall, Dame Shirley Porter used to quote her father, the Tesco founder Sir Jack Cohen, as she warned council officers that "you can't do business sitting on your arse".

Yesterday the woman estimated to be worth £70 million took his advice herself as she made her first public appearance in Britain for more than a year to challenge the £26.5 million surcharge imposed on her for the Westminster City Council homes-for-votes scandal.

On a rare visit from Israel, where she now lives, she arrived at the Court of Appeal surrounded by family members and wellwishers. There was a photocall and a short statement — "I am confident that, when people look at the facts of this case, my name will be cleared" — then it was time for business.

In court, too, there were snatches of the style that in the 1980s made her the Tory woman second in stature only to Margaret Thatcher. The council leader who once waged war against dog mess behind the wheel of a poop-scoop machine dealt with a water spillage just as decisively, dispatching her solicitor's trainee for paper towels.

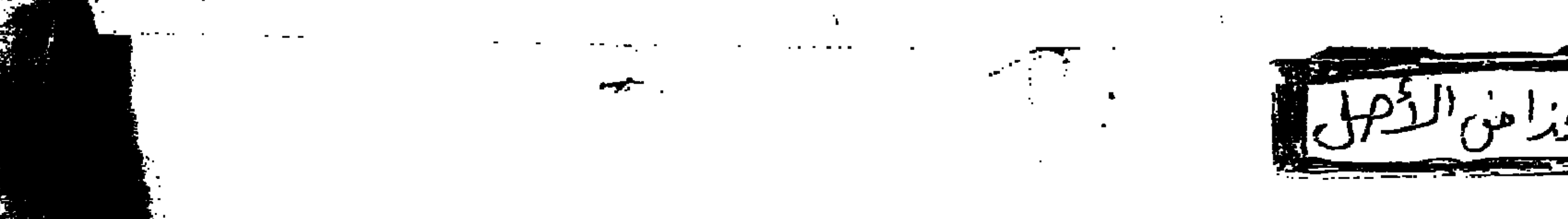
After lunch, however, there were signs that the former firebrand was burning less brightly as Dame Shirley several times appeared to rest her eyes during her counsel's lengthy submission. She has not been sluggish in engaging her legal team, however. Having controversially failed to engage Lord Neill of Bladen, the chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, she settled for Lord Lester of Herne Hill, a human rights specialist who took on the Government over *Spycatcher* and represented the spy George Blake. A second silk, Jeremy McMullen, took over in the afternoon.

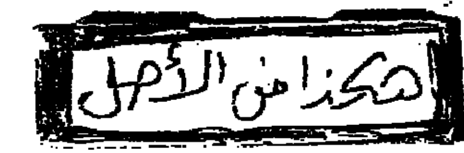
Dame Shirley and David Weeks, her former deputy, are appealing against the surcharge imposed by John Magill, the District Auditor, in 1996, after he found their policy of "designated" council home sales illegal. The Divisional Court, to which they appealed in 1997, agreed that the scheme was meant to "achieve unlawful electoral advantage" in marginal wards, and confirmed the surcharge.

Lord Lester painted a picture of his client as the victim of a long, unwieldy and unfair judicial process that had never given her the chance to clear her name. Mr Magill had prejudiced his own inquiry by giving a press conference to announce preliminary findings of guilt, and the Divisional Court had failed to treat her as innocent until proven guilty or on equal terms with the auditor. She had to undergo cross-examination while Mr Magill did not, and had to prove her innocence rather than vice versa.

Against a background of Tory sleaze, the affair "gave the Labour opposition the chance to attack the Conservatives", he said. "The mud that was flung at Dame Shirley has entirely mired her political and personal reputation."

Later Mr McMullen argued that Dame Shirley had never even done anything wrong. She had obtained proper legal advice that informed her the policy was "judge-proof", in spite of its political dimension, he said.





Baby bulge in 2000 will be risky, say doctors

Millennium boom could stretch the NHS too far, reports Ian Murray

COUPLES were urged to resist the temptation to take part in a millennium baby boom yesterday. Hospital consultants said that trying to conceive a child to be born in the first hours of 2000 could overstretch medical resources, giving an increased risk of complications and permanently handicapped children.

"The NHS maternity services are barely able to cope with the current rate of about 2,200 births per day owing to a national shortage of midwives," a statement from the Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association said. "A severe bulge in this number will render the service into a state of collapse."

The consultants say that if couples follow media advice that this week is the optimum for conceiving a millennium baby, there will be reduced standards of care which will be a hazard to both mother and baby for two weeks into the new year.

They also say that paediatric services would not be able to function adequately and intensive care facilities would be overloaded. "The result is likely to be an increase in the number of complications for mothers and probably an increase in the risk of lifetime handicaps for children."

A birth bulge would make life almost impossible for maternity staff at a time when there could be unforeseen problems from the millennium bug affecting computer equipment.

Robin Loveday, consultant obstetric anaesthetist at Pembury Hospital, in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, said that a sustained increase in births would increase the hazards because it would not be possible to get a sick or premature baby into a special intensive care unit.

"If the other neighbouring hospitals have peaks at the same time, you are in trouble as you cannot transfer patients," he said. "The potential is there for producing a handicapped baby as a result of the overload of the services."

If a larger than usual number of couples try to conceive this week, the consultants say that the peak birthing time for the NHS will last for about a fortnight, with no let-up at all for obstetricians and midwives to plan to induce mothers to help to spread the time period.



MATTHEW FEARN

The Prime Minister with the Duke of York and Emma Bunton, of the Spice Girls, at yesterday's NSPCC event

Duke backs drive against child cruelty

By Alexandra Frean

THE Duke of York urged parents to be more tolerant and respectful towards children yesterday. As chairman of the NSPCC's Full Stop campaign, which aims to raise £250 million, he became the first signatory to the charity's pledge against child cruelty.

Since the break-up of his marriage, the Duke has won plaudits from family campaigners for his devotion to his children and his determination to stand by his former wife. Yesterday, at the launch of the campaign at the Theatre Royal, London, he said: "As a father of two children, I think it's entirely right and proper that we should attempt to eradicate child abuse."

Although it was not possible to stop all child abuse, it was possible to save some lives, he added. "Some of the eradication of cruelty can be achieved with no capital outlay by raising awareness. I don't just mean cruelty in terms of physical cruelty. It can be psychological and mental."

Over the next few weeks, NSPCC pledge forms will be delivered to 23 million households. The charity hopes that at least one million people will sign the pledge and donate money within a year. Supporters include the radio presenter Zoe Ball, the former England striker Gary Lineker and Tony Blair.

Families Need Fathers, a charity that supports shared access to children, regards the Duke and Duchess of York as the model divorced couple in their behaviour towards the Princesses Beatrice, 10, and Eugenie, who is nine today. Jim Partin, its chairman said: "They both turn up at school sports days, go on holiday together and they are both there for their children."

Women leave pregnancy to fate

By Alexandra Frean, Social Affairs Correspondent

WOMEN'S decisions on whether and when to have a baby are influenced by subconscious feelings that go far beyond practical considerations about money, housing, relationships and health.

A study published today by the Family Planning Association (FPA) shows that many women, including well-educated professionals, believe that "biological destiny" will decide whether they will have a baby. As a result, they frequently do not use contraception properly, if at all.

Although most women questioned in the study said that they would like to be able to plan at what point in their lives pregnancy occurred, many did little to prevent it happening, believing instead that it was an inevitability.

Anne Weyman, chief executive of the FPA, said that one in three pregnancies in Britain was said to be unplanned, but that the question of intent was exceedingly difficult to answer definitively. Many women said they had not known they wanted to become pregnant until it happened.

Ms Weyman added that many women felt that pregnancy was influenced by a strong "biological imperative", in which their bodies played a stronger role than their own free wills.

She added that many women seemed quite ignorant about how their bodies worked and about the process of conception. Few women appeared to know at what point in the month they were most likely to get pregnant.

Some women may fit into different categories at different times in their lives, she said. In general, middle-class women often had a "grand plan" for their lives and were less vulnerable to unintended pregnancies than working-class women. Working-class women were, on the whole, much more positive about having children.

THE SEVEN TYPES OF MOTHER

Branagh pins hopes on love for the Bard

Love's Labour's Lost is next, writes **Adam Sherwin**

IT WAS a night of triumph for British talent at the Oscars, but, as the champagne hangovers wore off, work resumed on the films that aim to repeat that success next year.

If the Bard retains his popularity with the Academy, Kenneth Branagh's *Love's Labour's Lost* could match the success of *Shakespeare in Love*. The £15 million adaptation of Shakespeare's romantic comedy is the biggest British film now in production.

Branagh, who has already brought *Hamlet*, *Henry V* and *Much Ado About Nothing* to the big screen, began shooting at Shepperton film studios earlier this year. The cast includes Alicia Silverstone, Hollywood's latest glamour girl, and Paul Whitehouse, the star of the BBC comedy *The Fast Show*. Branagh plays Berowne as well as directing.

The film will receive £1 million of national lottery funding, awarded by the Arts Council, and further financial assistance from Pathé, a lottery-funded film production consortium. Unlike *Shakespeare in Love*, the Branagh film can claim to be a home-grown product. Intermedia Films, the producers, said: "We sold the rights around the world before filming, which gave us the money to make the film ourselves."



LINKS

daphne.palomar.edu/shakespeare comprehensive site with biography and genealogy of the Bard. Links to information on his plays and new television and film productions
www.stratford.co.uk/rsc/home.html summer programme for Royal Shakespeare Company at Stratford-upon-Avon
www.incompetech.com/authors/shakespeare/ biographies of Marlowe, de Vere and Bacon, playwrights whom some say really wrote works attributed to Shakespeare.

Ralph Fiennes is also at Shepperton, where he is taking the lead role in *The End of the Affair*, Neil Jordan's £15 million version of Graham Greene's wartime thriller. The film is an Anglo-American production. A spokesman for the film said: "There is not a penny-piece from England, but what is a British film? Most of the cast and crew are English."

The BBC is making a film of Mervyn Peake's *Gormenghast* at Shepperton, starring Stephen Fry and June Brown.

Pinewood, Britain's other major studio, is hosting the next James Bond epic, *The World Is Not Enough*. However, the studio has no films definitely booked in after that is completed, confirming industry fears that the strength of the pound is deterring film-makers from bringing their productions to England.

Despite the success of *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*, the audience for British-produced films has declined from 23 per cent of the total box office in 1997 to 14 per cent at the end of 1998. American money still accounts for 60 per cent of all finance spent on film production in Britain.

Nearly £70 million of lottery cash has been allocated to film production, but few box-office hits have resulted. Carolyn Lambert, director of the Arts Council's Film Lottery Unit, admitted: "No films we funded have fully recouped their outlay." Poor scripts are blamed. Ms Lambert said: "We now have professional script-readers providing a detailed assessment of each film."

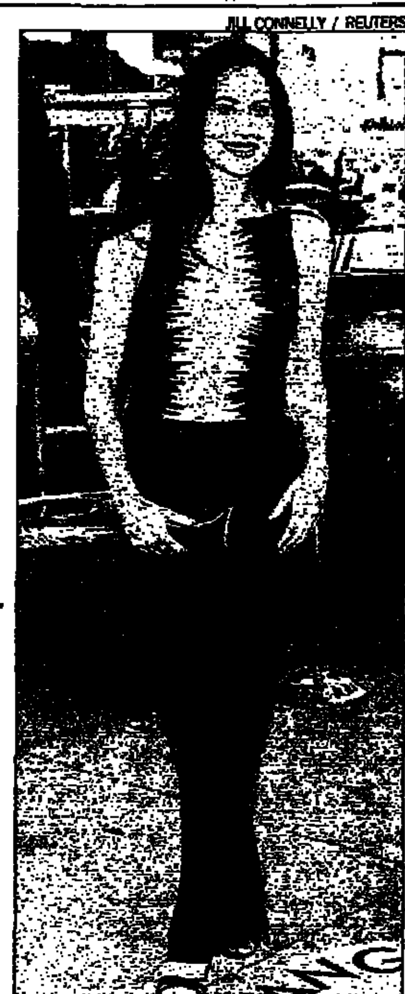
Some people believe too many British films are made. Richard Holmes, producer of *Waking Ned*, a low-budget comedy set in Ireland, which has taken $24 million (£15 million) in the United States, said: "Two British films a week is the absolute maximum the market can sustain."

Letters, page 19

WHOOPING IT UP

Whoopi Goldberg sported outfits based on the five films in best costume category. These were her versions of *Elizabeth*, *Shakespeare in Love* and *Velvet Goldmine*

JILL CONNELLY / REUTERS



MICHAEL CAULFIELD / REUTERS



ERIC DRAPER / AP



LA style: from left, party time for Minnie Driver; Emily Watson, nominated for Best Actress; and Jennifer Lopez, presenting Original Song award ...

CHRIS PIZZELLO / AP



Catherine Zeta Jones, strapless in Versace

AND NOW, THE BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS . . .

TO SEE the real stars of the Oscars, you don't have to stay up until 5am (Deborah Brett writes). For a fashion show featuring some of the world's most beautiful women in some of the world's most fabulous gowns — or, occasionally, some of the world's most visible fashion mistakes — you have only to watch the first half-hour.

The 71st Academy Awards, however, were disappointingly thin on catastrophic frou-frou numbers — LA, it seems, has finally got some style. Mistakes on the scale of Cher wearing a ship on her head or Geena Davis in one of her peachy puffballs were scarce.

Celine Dion's Christian Dior couture suit did flummox a few. A winner in pure fashion stakes, the cream reversed-tuxedo suit and matching fedora-cum-trilby hybrid was a brave attempt that left people guessing: was it on back to front?

In the contest between the two period drama queens, Gwyneth Paltrow may have won the acting award, but Cate Blanchett took the fashion accolade. She wore a deceptively simple, slinky knit dress with floral trellis embroidery cascading over her back almost as if it had been handpainted by its British designer, John Galliano, himself.

Paltrow's marshmallow-pink satin dress by Ralph Lauren was a little too Princess Grace: tight and clingy on top (even on skinny Gwynnie) and too voluminous below. Her newly lengthened tresses, last seen at the Golden

Jubilant clown entertains with

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

THE biggest stars in Hollywood yesterday were Roberto Benigni and Monica Lewinsky. The award-winner had stolen the Oscar show with his impassioned declarations. The sometime White House intern stole the late-night party scene with shocking pink lips and the sort of fame that made even Madonna stop and stare.

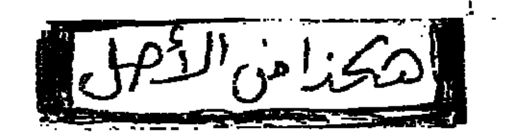
Gwyneth Paltrow and Harvey Weinstein had created nearly as much of a stir. The night's Best Actress sobbed on the podium as she regaled the audience with her family's joys and woes. Then she bounced into the *Vanity Fair* soirée too thrilled to notice Ben Affleck, her ex-boyfriend, marching out.

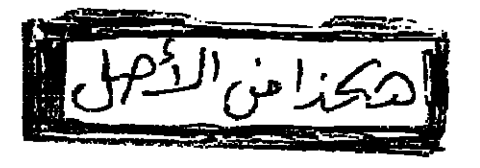
Mr Weinstein, the Miramax co-chairman, can now claim to be the most powerful man in film. He left the ceremony with his shirt untucked, but an Oscar in each fist — two of the ten in which his company had a role after *Shakespeare in Love's* surprise victory over *Saving Private Ryan*.

But the Roman clown who had dared to take a comic approach to the Holocaust in his film *Life is Beautiful* made the four-hour Oscar show — the longest yet — watchable. "I leave here with the Oscar, but I want *you*," he exclaimed after clambering over Steven Spielberg to collect the prize for Best Foreign Film from his compatriot, Sophia Loren. An American reporter asked afterwards if Benigni had planned to climb over seats to the podium. "I let my body do what it wants," he replied. "When you are in love, you cannot organise your body."

Then Benigni's fellow nominees for Best Actor, Sir Ian McKellen, Tom Hanks and Nick Nolte, looked on as he emerged the winner. His English not quite exhausted, Benigni announced a desire to be Jupiter and "lie down in the firmament making love to everybody". He thanked Hollywood for a "hailstorm of kindness",









THE 1999 ACADEMY AWARDS







Madonna, left, and Celine Dion; right, Judi Dench, Cate Blanchett, Gwyneth Paltrow

... WEARING THE BEST UNSUPPORTED FROCK

Globes, were scraped back in a neat chignon with the fairytale look topped off with matching diamond necklace and earrings and a wispy chiffon wrap.

Cutesy princess was a popular look on Oscar night. The raunchy Jennifer Lopez, last seen on British screens with George Clooney in *Out of Sight*, wore a sophisticated take on the prom queen dress in black and cream embroidered Badgley Mischka, with a stunning swept-up hairdo.

Kim Basinger in New York designer Randolph Duke, Liv Tyler in Pamela Dennis and Catherine Zeta Jones in Versace all went strapless. Britain's Emily Watson, nominated for *Hilary and Jackie*, was backcombed and beaming in her specially designed Valentino satin column dress.

But it was Dame Judi Dench, named Best Supporting Actress for *Shakespeare in Love*, who ditched the designs of London, Paris and Milan and headed instead for Bombay in Abu Jani and Sandeep Khosla's hand-embroidered cream, gold and silver thread coat.

funny way of reaching the top

and his parents for "the greatest gift of all — poverty".

Eight of the 31 British nominees won Oscars, among them Sir Tom Stoppard, who was demure on stage but promised he was feeling like Benigni underneath; David Parfitt, a producer of *Shakespeare in Love*; and Dame Judi Dench who, having been nominated for playing Victoria last year and won for playing Elizabeth I this, remarked afterwards that she was not looking for "my third queen in a row".

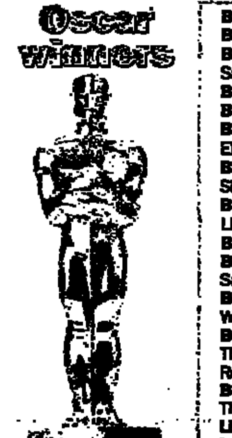
Backstage, Dame Judi and Paltrow professed their love for British film-making but gave warning that it remained fragile. "More films are being made now and some are quite wonderful, but we're still babes at it," said Dame Judi.

Ms Lewinsky has never been in a film, but it looked as if opportunity might be knocking in the early hours of yesterday morning. Reclining in a tight black gown on a huge white sofa at the *Vanity Fair* party, she proved a magnet for the Hollywood A-list, gawped at by Affleck, Madonna and Kevin Costner, among others, in mute recognition of her unique cachet. When the scrutiny became too much, she buried her head behind Jonathan Marshall, a film production executive.

The one drama forecast for Sunday night that failed to unfold was an audience mutiny over the honorary Oscar for the director Elia Kazan, 47 years after he had named alleged Communist colleagues before the House Un-American Activities Committee during the McCarthy era.

Kazan, 89, whose films include *On The Waterfront*, was hugged by Martin Scorsese, kissed by Robert De Niro and applauded by most, but not all, of the audience. The actors Nick Nolte and Ed Harris sat with their arms crossed, their protest noted by a billion television viewers. Without apologising for anything, Kazan said, "I think I can just slip away," and did just that.

Oscar winners



Best Picture: Shakespeare in Love
Best Leading Actor: Roberto Benigni, Life is Beautiful
Best Leading Actress: Gwyneth Paltrow, Shakespeare in Love
Best Supporting Actress: Judi Dench, Shakespeare in Love
Best Supporting Actor: James Coburn, Affliction
Best Director: Steven Spielberg, Saving Private Ryan
Best Foreign Language Film: Life is Beautiful
Best Screenplay Written Directly For The Screen: Shakespeare in Love
Best Screenplay Based On Material Previously Produced or Published: Gods and Monsters
Best Art Direction: Shakespeare in Love
Best Costume Design: Shakespeare in Love
Best Makeup: Elizabeth
Best Sound: Saving Private Ryan
Best Sound Effects Editing: Saving Private Ryan
Best Song: When You Believe
Best Animated Short Film: Bunny
Best Live Action Short Film: Election Night (Valgaften)
Best Original Musical or Comedy Score: Shakespeare in Love
Best Original Dramatic Score: Life is Beautiful
Best Film Editing: Saving Private Ryan
Best Achievement in Cinematography: Saving Private Ryan
Best Achievement in Visual Effects: What Dreams May Come
Best Documentary Short Subject: The Personals: Improvisations On Romance In The Golden Years
Best Documentary Feature: The Last Days
Lifetime Achievement Award: Elia Kazan.
Irving G. Thalberg Award: Norman Jewison.

IN BRIEF

Italy says bravo to Benigni

The triumph at the Oscars of Roberto Benigni's controversial tragi-comic film about the Holocaust, *Life is Beautiful*, was greeted yesterday with an explosion of Italian national pride. Massimo D'Alema, the Prime Minister, said that the award marked "an honour for Italian culture", and the Italian director Franco Zeffirelli said: "His win is good for all of us."

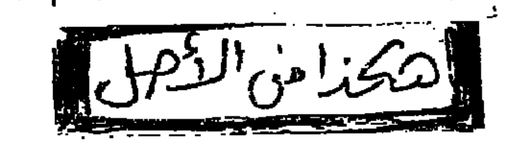
The actress Sophia Loren, who won her first Oscar in 1961, said: "Roberto's achievement is to have changed the image of Italy, which people still associate only with pizza, spaghetti and the Mafia."

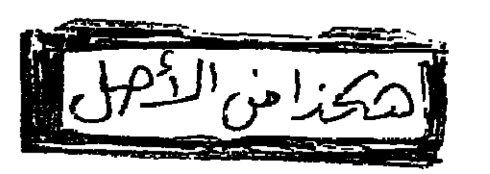
Teen actor's lip service

Daniel Brocklebank, a teenage graduate of Redroofs Theatre School at Maidenhead, near Slough, explained that he played a part in Gwyneth Paltrow's success by kissing her 32 times in the making of *Shakespeare in Love*. In the role-reversal custom of Elizabethan drama, he played a stage Juliet to her Romeo, kissing her twice in a scene shot 16 times. He said: "It was a great honour. I was only 18, and here I was kissing Gwyneth Paltrow. She was a very good kisser — it wasn't like kissing my mum or anything."

Extras for Stratford

Stratford-upon-Avon is preparing for a glut of visitors and the Royal Shakespeare Company expects heavy bookings after the success of *Shakespeare in Love*. Kate Hunter, of the RSC, said: "It's great for business. This will be a huge boost to tourism for Stratford, especially from overseas. It happened before with [the Leonardo DiCaprio film] *Romeo + Juliet*. It makes Shakespeare more accessible to young people." Advance bookings for the Stratford theatre's 1999 season have already exceeded £2 million.


هكذا من الأصل



More city homes to save the country

Councils to be told to use empty offices and wasteland before releasing greenfield sites, reports Nick Nuttall

TOUGHER rules on housing developments in the countryside will be unveiled by the Government today.

Councils are to be told to adopt an approach in which the priority is given to converting offices and other redundant inner-city buildings and redeveloping derelict land. The rules could spell an end to developments such as Grazeley, a 2,500-house site planned in Berkshire south of the M4.

The tighter rules, to be announced by Richard Caborn, the Planning Minister, will also give priority to "city extensions" rather than settlements on greenfield sites. The extensions should be built at higher densities to counter the threat of urban sprawl. This will also ensure that there are enough people to support new shops, leisure facilities and bus services to counter unnecessary commuting, the Government believes.

Ministers have shied away from a precise figure, but may suggest densities of between 17 and 50 homes an acre: far higher than the fewer than nine homes an acre in traditional suburban sites.

The new rules, dubbed the sequential approach, form part of the long-awaited Planning Policy Guidance 3, which has been drafted to fulfil John Prescott's pledge last year to end the "predict and provide" approach to housing, and to counter the threat to the countryside from an estimated 4.4 million new homes needed by 2016.

The rules are also in reponse to growing disquiet among Labour's MPs in the shires who fear that their seats will be vulnerable if unbridled housing development continues.

Campaigners such as the Council for the Protection of Rural England have claimed that the existing planning rules are steering too many developments into greenfield and greenbelt areas. Tony Burton, of the council, said yesterday: "Previous policies have been unthinking. It has been far easier and cheaper to build on greenfield sites." He said that several new countryside towns or settlements were in the pipeline, including Grazeley; Broadclyft, which will provide up to 3,000 homes in Devon; and up to 8,000 houses at Micheldever, Hampshire.

The new rules, making it far harder for such projects to get land allocated, are aimed at meeting and, it is hoped, exceeding the Government's target for pushing 60 per cent of the new dwellings into inner-city sites. The Government has been impressed by research and reports from groups including the Joseph Rowntree Trust, the UK Round Table on Sustainable Development and consultants to the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions. These have concluded that there is far more abandoned and vacant land in cities than many councils have included in local development plans.

Some places in the North West such as Manchester, Oldham and Lancaster, could accommodate 36 times more homes than they do. London could increase its housing capacity by 50 per cent if small parcels of land and redundant buildings were fully utilised, a government-backed report has concluded.

Under the new rules councils will be required to seek out all suitable plots, assess the potential for conversions and take account of environmental considerations. These will include studies into how many homes could be built on a brownfield site if street parking were cut. Studies in London suggest that reducing the number of car spaces to fewer than one a home could double the number of homes that could be built in the capital, to more than one million.

The Government announced last year that it had asked Ordnance Survey to draw up a land-use database to pinpoint every scrap of derelict land. Mr Caborn will urge local authorities to make used of this to formulate their planning strategies.

The Government is also expected to require councils to take account of "windfall sites": parcels of land that suddenly come on to the market because, for example, a bus garage closes. Studies indicate that the amount of inner-city land that becomes available after councils have drawn up their ten-year plans can be as much as 20 per cent of a local authority's needs. At present councils can estimate windfall sites of only one acre or less when planning land releases, which means, critics says, that many councils release too much rural or greenfield land for development, which can be impossible to claw back.

Ex-officers try to halt football disaster case

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

TWO former South Yorkshire police commanders began an attempt yesterday to order the Director of Public Prosecutions to take over and halt a private prosecution by relatives of those involved in the Hillsborough football stadium disaster.

Former Chief Superintendent David Duckenfield and former Superintendent Bernard Murray are accused of unlawful killing and wilful neglect of duty in a prosecution started last year by the Hillsborough Family Support Group. Mr Duckenfield is also accused of perverting the course of justice by lying over the circumstances in which a gate at the football ground was opened at the time of the disaster.

Ninety-six fans were killed in the tragedy during an FA Cup semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest at the Sheffield Wednesday ground in 1989.

Yesterday Michael Harrison, QC, for the two men, asked the Court of Appeal for leave to start a judicial review into the refusal of David Calvert-Smith, QC, the *Director of Public Prosecutions*, to stop the case. The men claim that Mr Calvert-Smith's decision was perverse and unreasonable and was based on unlawful and improper policy.

Mr Harrison told Lord Justice Laws, sitting with Mr Justice Cresswell and Mr Justice Latham, that the Hillsborough case had been subject to a series of investigations by the Crown Prosecution Service. Each time a prosecution had been ruled out.

The court was told that, when the CPS was asked to step in and halt the prosecution, it replied that the DPP would step in only if there was clearly no case to answer, the public interest favoured no action and a private prosecution would damage the interest of justice.

Mr Harrison asked what public interest factors were so strong that they overrode a decision to close it down.

The court will also be asked to decide whether the South Yorkshire police authority has the power to fund the former policemen's defence in a private prosecution and whether they should fund the action over the DPP's decision.

The police authority suspended financial support for the men in February after being given legal advice that it had no funding powers. The Hillsborough families support the authority.



WILLIAM CHERRY

Ian Price: he said the masked men who grabbed him from behind were "cowards"

Family of Ulster attack boy vow to defy threats

By Martin Fletcher, Chief Ireland Correspondent

THE parents of a 13-year-old boy viciously beaten by loyalist paramilitaries yesterday insisted that he would defy their exile order and remain in Northern Ireland.

"He is coming home to me," declared Ian Price as his son, also named Ian, lay in a hospital bed with a shattered elbow, broken fingers and extensive cuts, bruising and puncture wounds inflicted by a gang of hooded men using nail-studded baseball bats.

Ian is believed to be one of the youngest people subjected to a paramilitary punishment beating, let alone an exile order. The attack is being attributed to the Ulster Defence Association.

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, called it "barbaric and appalling". Adam Ingram, the Security Minister, said the paramilitaries had "stooped to a new low". The RUC called it an "absolutely horrific attack on a child".

The gang grabbed Ian as he was playing with friends in Newtownards, Co Down, at the weekend. The men made the other children sit and watch as they clubbed the boy for several minutes. They then put a gun to his head and told him he had 24 hours to leave the country.



Grace Price: son is "no angel, but has a heart"

Ian called his attackers a "bunch of cowards". He said he was grabbed from behind and "welted" on the arm. "I just went all numb and took the rest of the beating."

Ian's mother, Grace, said he had recently been in court for stealing, but that was no reason to beat him. "He may not be an angel, but he's got a good heart and he'd run a mile for anybody." His father said it was "a disgrace that these people can call themselves men".

After a brief lull republican and loyalist punishment attacks are picking up. There were three last weekend.

Men get it in the neck for snoring

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

MEN are more likely to snore because the male neck is more muscular, say scientists who used a medical scanner to solve the puzzle.

Snoring is caused by soft tissue collapsing and obstructing the airways. This forces the sleeper to breath heavily to force them open, which causes the soft palate to vibrate. Logically, women should snore more because they have more body fat. It has been a mystery why women generally sleep more quietly than men.

However, researchers at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary used a magnetic resonance imaging scanner to examine the necks and airways of volunteers and found that men have a greater proportion of soft tissue in the neck than in the body as a whole because they have a larger amount of muscle there. Men also have bulkier tongues and soft palates.

The researchers, reporting in the specialist journal *Thorax*, conclude that, when men fall asleep, the reduction in muscle tone means that the soft tissue collapses the airways and snoring results.

The volunteers, ten men and ten women, were matched closely for age and degree of obesity. All 20 said that they did not snore.

Rembrandt export blocked

THE export of a Rembrandt oil painting was temporarily blocked by the Government yesterday to give British museums and galleries a chance to raise the £9.3 million asking price.

The sale of *Portrait of an Elderly Man*, painted in 1667, had been agreed between the owners, the estate of Lord Cowdray, and a buyer from The Netherlands.

However, Alan Howarth, the Arts Minister, decided to block the deal until June 22, acting on the advice of the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art that the painting, which was brought to Britain in the mid-18th century, should remain in the country if possible.

If a prospective British buyer is making a serious attempt to raise the cash, but has not reached the required amount by the deadline, the block could be extended for three months to September 22.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Girl of 12 dies from meningitis

A girl aged 12 has died in hospital in Southampton a day after becoming ill at home with meningitis. Victoria Pass was a pupil at Noadswood Secondary School in Dibden Purlieu, Hampshire. Children who have been in close contact with her are being prescribed antibiotics.

Mike Barker, consultant in communicable diseases control for Southampton and South West Health Authority, said: "We believe this is a sporadic, unlinked case." Her headmaster, John Samuels, said that Victoria had suffered problems with her legs and feet in recent years and had shown determination through a number of operations. He added: "She was a cheerful, determined and popular girl and will be sadly missed."

Hunt barred

A hunt was barred from public land for breaching tightened guidelines. The Forestry Commission imposed a 31-day suspension on the New Forest Foxhounds after video evidence showed members letting hounds dig a fox from its lair.

Bowled out

Counterfeit cricket equipment with a bogus trademark of Gunn and Moore of Nottingham has been seized by trading standards officers in London. The company spotted fake versions of their gloves, pads and bats in a brochure.

Latin is rubbish

Worcester City Council has ordered an investigation after its motto *Civitas in Bello et Pace Fidelis* (City Faithful in War and Peace) was spotted as being misspelt Fiocelis on a dustcart. It is also wrong on letterheads.

CORRECTION

Elmned Morgan MEP listed all her interests in full when she returned her declaration of interests form (report, March 6).

£350m package aims to overcome 'fatalism and failure', writes **John O'Leary**

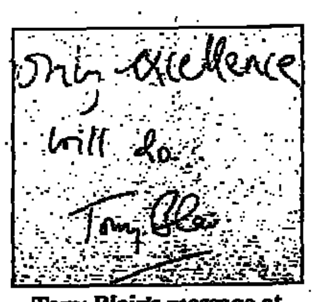
Blair means business for inner-city schools

THOUSANDS of business mentors will be drafted into inner-city schools to help to overcome the culture of "fatalism and failure" which is driving middle-class parents away from state education, Tony Blair said yesterday.

A £350 million package covering 450 comprehensive schools in six cities will include extra classes for the brightest pupils and more than double the number of specialist and beacon schools. All the schools will have access to units for disruptive children.

The centrepiece of the three-year initiative, however, will be a network of mentors to guide the development of pupils. Two teachers in each of the targeted schools will bring in outsiders to help with reading and advise on careers.

Clusters of schools will form small versions of the Government's education action zones, where parents' groups and private companies will work with local authorities to raise standards. They will also host the first of the community information technology centres announced in the Budget.



Tony Blair's message at the launch yesterday

Launching the programme at St Paul's Way Community School, in Bow, East London, Mr Blair promised to raise standards in "every single school" in the inner cities. "We must start from a position of acknowledging that something is wrong with inner-city schooling. There should be no compromise in the battle for excellence in our education system, wherever children go."

David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, attacked critics who would not accept that educational progress was possible without the elimination of poverty. "That is a message of despair: it writes off hundreds of thousands of children while we wait for the New Jerusalem to arrive."

Although advance briefing concentrated on "masterclasses" for 100,000 of the brightest children, most of the funding will be targeted on combating social disadvantage and catering for lower-ability pupils. The first £17 million will be spent on the employment of 800 teacher mentors, while 80 inner-city IT learning centres will cost £100 million.

The programme will be based in inner and northeast London, Manchester, Salford, Liverpool, Knowsley, Birmingham, Leeds, Bradford, Sheffield and Rotherham. Many of the schools are at the foot of examination tables.

Mr Blunkett told MPs the Government was raising its target for the expansion of specialist schools from 500 to 800 by the next election, encompassing one in four secondary schools. He also announced plans to expand to 1,000 the number of beacon schools, which receive extra funds to help to spread best practice in teaching to other local schools.

One in three schools will host units for disruptive children. David Willetts, the Shadow Education Secretary, said schools would feel "frustration and anger" at another directive on how to spend money which should be part of core funding.

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ALASTAIR GRANT/AP



Tony Blair and David Blunkett at the launch of the inner-city schools project at St Paul's Way Community School

Parents either side of great divide

GOING PRIVATE

ADRIAN AND EULINE KERRIDGE decided that relying on state education was too risky (Michael Harvey writes). Instead they opted to send Fran, now 18, to the City of London School for Girls. Mr Kerridge, an accounts clerk, and his wife, a supply teacher, live in Bow, half a mile from St Paul's Way Community School. They were worried about falling standards locally and feared that their daughter might be held back. Fran won an assisted place at the £6,000-a-year public school at the Barbican and has been offered a place at Newnham College, Cambridge to read theology. Mrs Kerridge said: "Sending your child to a private school means guaranteeing a good education. They can offer so much more in terms of backup and extra-curricular activities. It is expensive and we have struggled but in the end it has been worth it. Francesca would not have an offer from Cambridge if she had studied at the local comprehensive."

STATE FIRST

STEVE GOODE and his wife Yvonne chose St Paul's Way School, where Tony Blair launched the plan, for his children because "we wanted to be connected to our local community". Mr Goode, 43, a community development consultant and his wife, a child psychiatrist, live 15 minutes' walk away. He said: "We did have to trust our children a great deal to achieve what they wanted to — be it exam results or in other fields. We also believe that parental influence is far greater than school influence." But he said that, as middle-class parents, "at times we have felt very isolated". Aidan, 13, moved to another school last year after problems at St Paul's but for Roisin, 15, it has been a great success. "People who have been to private schools are not necessarily better educated or more skilled." Mr Goode said. "We recognise that the most important skill our children will need will be the ability to get on with all sorts of people. That is as important as academic success."

Peers vote to block 3-day week

A LABOUR attempt to introduce an effective three-day week in the Lords was overwhelmingly defeated last night (James Landale writes). Peers voted by 225 to 87 against moving backbench debates from Wednesdays to Thursdays. They argued this would sideline Thursdays because most peers would go home on Wednesday night.

Debates on Wednesdays are better attended because many peers have to remain in London to vote on Thursdays. Baroness Young, a former Tory leader in the Lords, said: "We would be in danger of becoming a three-day-week House and like the House of Commons where many MPs leave on Thursday lunchtime."

Rebel Tories threaten to contest by-election

By Roland Watson and James Landale

WILLIAM HAGUE was threatened with a potentially decisive by-election challenge from breakaway Tories last night in the contest to succeed Fiona Jones, the disgraced ex-Labour MP.

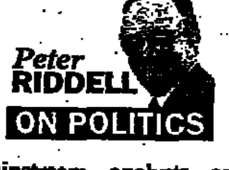
John Stevens, leader of the Pro-Euro Conservatives, warned the Tory leadership that his group would field its own candidate in the Newark contest if the Conservatives selected a Eurosceptic. "If they put up a real sceptic intending to vindicate William Hague's policy then we are going to have to act."

Senior Tories last night dismissed the warning as a distraction. However, a breakaway candidate capable of picking up even a small percentage of the vote would undermine the party's efforts to overhaul the 3,000 majority Labour won in May 1997.

Labour's national executive will today suspend the Newark party and give its own by-elections panel the authority to impose a candidate for the poll, expected to coincide with local elections on May 6. Although Mrs Jones' appeal against her conviction for election fraud is to be heard on April 12, Labour sources made clear yesterday that she would not be considered.

Mr Hague's difficulties were eased when Kenneth Clarke yesterday delivered a speech strongly loyal to the party leadership, insisting that Tories should unite for the local and European elections. Speaking at a conference of the Conservative Group for Europe, a grassroots pro-European forum, and the Positive European Group of MPs, he said: "Our biggest problem is to persuade the electorate that we are fighting as a unified party. If we indulge in divisiveness between ourselves, we shall not be elected ourselves." He said that the European elections should not be "solely about the single currency" but instead about issues such as enlargement.

What case for force in Kosovo?



Peter RIDDELL ON POLITICS

WITHIN days, if not hours, British planes and missiles are likely to be part of a major Nato military action against Serbia. But there has been virtually no public or parliamentary discussion of the case for action, the risks involved and what might be achieved.

The lack of such a debate in Britain is in marked contrast to the US, where the pluses and minuses have been discussed at length in Congress, in the opinion columns of newspapers and on talk shows, while the issue dominated President Clinton's news conference last Friday, the first full one he had held for a year. That is one difference between a superpower and a regional power.

In Britain, the debate over Kosovo has been largely confined to defence and foreign policy specialists and has barely caused a ripple in Parliament. However, serious misgivings stretch far beyond the usual quasi-pacifists and opponents of armed intervention to include many mainstream analysts and commentators.

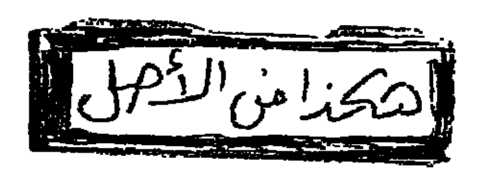
The Serbs are a far more formidable foe than the Iraqis. They have advanced Soviet missiles and an integrated, well trained air defence system. American defence chiefs have been warning Congressional leaders that there is a high likelihood of losses and casualties, which have so far been avoided in the operations against Iraq.

The doubters challenge the common assumption in the Clinton administration that bombing might have the same effect as it did in 1995 before the Dayton agreement. Then, the Bosnian Serbs were overstretched and losing. Now, the Serbs are in a strong military position. There is little immediate incentive for President Milosevic of Yugoslavia to agree to last week's Paris peace agreement. Some have suggested that it would be easier for him to be forced out of Kosovo by military action than by negotiation.

There are also questions about what bombing would achieve on its own. Serb capabilities might be damaged, but their security forces might still be able to attack and drive out ethnic Albanians, creating even more refugees than now. None of the Western allies, and particularly the US, is willing to commit ground troops and risk the likely large casualties. There are real worries about a wider Balkan war, as well as confrontation with Russia.

The counter view, argued by the British and American Governments, is that the Nato alliance cannot be seen to back down on its earlier warnings against President Milosevic, especially after its earlier tactical retreats. Otherwise, the credibility of the alliance will be destroyed, both in Kosovo and in other countries with similar internal divisions. The military argument is that sufficiently heavy missile and air attacks of the type now planned will call President Milosevic's bluff and sufficiently degrade his capability so as to persuade him that further defiance is not worthwhile.

Tony Blair is convinced of the need to act. But he has yet to persuade the British people. He — and it is a prime ministerial duty — should explain the case for force as soon as possible.





A young Kosovo refugee gives a victory sign from the safety of Macedonia yesterday

Serbs pursue scorched earth strategy

Rebels regroup as refugees beg for help, writes Anthony Loyd in Gornja Klina

UNFORGIVING and unabated, the Serb offensive swept onwards through the Drenica region of central Kosovo yesterday beneath a pall of smoke from villages that burned on all points of the compass.

"If the outside world doesn't help us soon there will be nothing left for us Albanians but a shared grave," said one refugee, Alija Shaban, 60, as he fled southwards through Lausa, which by late morning was itself coming under mortar fire. His village, Rezala, had suffered Serb bombardment on Sunday. Packing 25 of his family on to carts, he had walked beside them for three hours through the forest, and had another two hours of road before him until he reached the sanctuary of friends.

"Where is Nato? We signed the agreement. They promised to protect us if we signed and we did. If we don't get help from the outside world there will be a massive catastrophe for our people. We shall die."

Other refugees in his column were fleeing Likovac, one-time headquarters of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), now also under shellfire and ground attack. North of the Srbica-to-Komorane road, the axis of advance that the Serbs took to bisect Drenica two days ago, plumes of smoke rose from village after village, destroyed as Yugoslav forces hammered KLA pockets back towards the anvil of the Cicavica mountain range, seized by the Serbs last week.

With the news of the assaults on Likovac and Rezala it seems that they have now turned their advance southwards too. Drenica is being carved and crushed piecemeal. In Gornja Klina, two miles north of Srbica, Serb troops stepped from flaming houses as on the road below them pathetic groups of Albanian women and children milled about in listless shock.

Their escape routes blocked, they had no idea where to run to. Serbian police brazenly loaded a truck with looted possessions. Macabrely, a rope noose swung inside gutted house, while the silhouettes of howitzers poked skywards on the smoking horizon.

The offensive has rippled gunfire across Kosovo, and the Serbs are not having it all their own way. On Sunday night four policeman died in a hail of Kalashnikov fire just north of the centre of Pristina. Another two were wounded beside them by a drive-by KLA team.

Hours earlier, on the road between Suva Reka and Studencane, 28 miles south of Pristina, I saw Serb special police and Yugoslav Army troops crouching among rubble as they prepared to withdraw in disorder from blazing houses, ignited when their patrol was ambushed by KLA guerrillas.

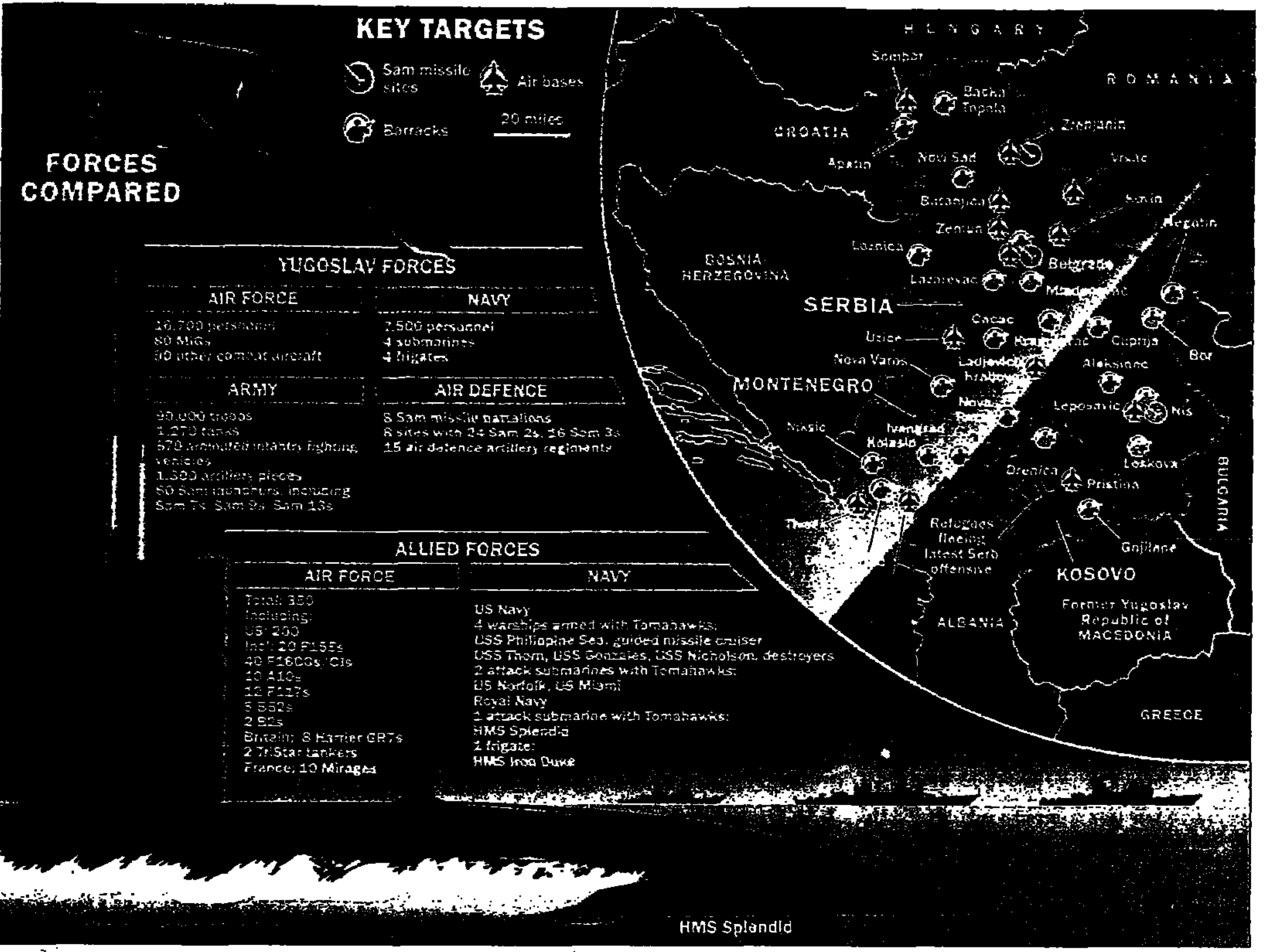
When the verifiers of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe were present the Serbs' access along this route was usually guaranteed by negotiation. Now these men have gone, all bets are off. The Serbs seemed almost surprised by their fate. "There are many terrorists in the hills," a shaken officer said from behind the cover of his vehicle.

Even in Glogovac, centre point of the Serbs' advance, the Yugoslav military was running into problems. KLA fighters crept through their lines on Sunday, planting charges beneath bridges on either side of the town. The blasts failed to bring the bridges down, but one was rendered impassable.

"The whole thing is sliding out of control," a Western diplomat in Skopje, Macedonia, said. "If Nato does want to act it must do so very fast."

Letters, page 19

Smoke rises from houses torched by Serb forces in Gornja Klina in the Drenica region yesterday



Milosevic faces cruise missile storm

Defence planners are keen to retain an element of surprise, reports Michael Evans, defence editor

HUNDREDS of cruise missiles, some on board *HMS Splendid*, the Royal Navy's first Tomahawk-armed submarine, are being prepared for launching at Yugoslav military targets if President Milosevic rejects last-ditch diplomatic efforts.

Although Nato has been giving the Yugoslav leader almost daily warnings of possible airstrikes, alliance planners will be keen to retain an element of surprise if final approval is given for bombing targets in Yugoslavia.

Theoretically, if the latest diplomatic moves fail to persuade Mr Milosevic to approve the peace plan for Kosovo, bombing could begin within 24 to 48 hours.

It could be a false assumption for Belgrade to believe that the bombing necessarily would be delayed until Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Prime Minister, has completed his visit to Washington this week, or until after the European Union summit meeting in Berlin tomorrow.

Yesterday, after a meeting of the North Atlantic Council, Nato's 19 ambassadors gave full authority to Javier Solana, the alliance Secretary-General, to order airstrikes, extending the authority given in January. Approval was given for a wide variety of military targets throughout Yugoslavia, not just air defence sites.

Nato has about 350 aircraft available for a bombing campaign, reduced in number since last month because of the departure to the Gulf of the American aircraft carrier *USS Enterprise*.

However, the initial punch would be provided by warships and aircraft armed with cruise missiles. They consist of eight American B52 bombers, now on 24 hours' notice at RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire, as well as four US Navy surface ships, two American attack submarines and the Royal Navy's nuclear-powered submarine, all in the Adriatic and Mediterranean. The Navy Tomahawks have a range of 800 miles.

In the Commons, George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, confirmed that *HMS Splendid* was in the area and "available for operations in connection with the crisis in Kosovo".

Despite the formidable firepower, allied aircrews would face much more dangerous air defence than they did over Bosnia-Herzegovina during the bombing campaign in 1995, and the anti-aircraft threat confronting American and British planes every day over southern and northern Iraq.

Paul Beaver, of Jane's Information Group, said: "Yugoslavia is a smaller country than Iraq and its air defence systems are totally integrated.

The surface-to-air missiles have also been updated with Russian technology, especially the mobile Sam 6s."

The Sam missile radars had also been given a new anti-jamming capability, he said, which would make it more difficult for allied aircraft to hit their targets.

Mr Beaver said that the Yugoslav Army and Air Force had about 1,000 Sam missile launchers and 2,000 anti-aircraft guns. The latter could fire several thousand rounds a minute, which would pose a threat to low-flying aircraft and to the subsonic "hedge-hopping" cruise missiles.

An added problem for allied aircraft is that if the targets selected for the wider campaign include Yugsolav tank concentrations in Kosovo, there will be a high risk of killing civilians if Mr Milosevic orders his tanks to shelter in or near ethnic Albanian villages once airstrikes begin.

The Americans have about 200 aircraft in the region, supplemented by 150 other allied planes. The US jets include about a dozen F117 Stealth fighters and 20 of the deadly F15E Strike Eagles, flown last month to the Italian base of Aviano from RAF Lakenheath in Suffolk. About ten tank-busting A10 Thunderbolts are also at Aviano, redeployed from Spangdahlen in Germany.

The aircraft with the biggest firepower are the B52s, which delivered 40 per cent of all weapons dropped by coalition forces during Operation Desert Storm in 1991, and the B2 Spirit Stealth bomber, located at Whiteman air force base in Missouri.

The B2, which would fly non-stop from Missouri to Yugoslavia with mid-air refuelling, has a wing span equivalent to more than half the length of a football pitch but a radar signature the size of a bird, making it one of the most difficult aircraft for the Yugoslav radars to spot.

Yeltsin has IMF on his mind

FROM ANNA BLUNDY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin yesterday at last submitted the 1993 Start-2 nuclear arms reduction treaty to the Duma for ratification. The move, on the eve of his Prime Minister's visit to Washington, is being interpreted as an attempt to mollify the Americans and so encourage the International Monetary Fund to come up with some money.

Despite mounting tension between Russia and America over Kosovo, it is considered unlikely in Moscow that Nato will carry out airstrikes during Yevgeni Primakov's visit.

But Moscow is in no position to argue about it. Mr Primakov is now desperate for at least some of the delayed $4.6 billion (£2.8 billion) instalment of the IMF stabilisation loan and is keen to show that Russia is playing by the rules.

The country is now the IMF's biggest borrower and is so impoverished that this year's budget is $25 billion, a sum the United States spends in under a week.

Leading article, page 19



ANASTASIA VRACHNOS / EPA

The home of a Madurese immigrant is torched in ethnic clashes in Kalimantan

Borneo sinks into ethnic bloodletting

Minority reaps bitter harvest of Jakarta's land policy, writes David Watts

MORE than 100 people have been killed on Borneo island in ethnic clashes among Indonesians in which victorious warriors have been parading the heads of victims. The ritual savagery has forced thousands to flee their homes which have been summarily pillaged and torched.

Thousands have now taken refuge in Pontianak, the regional capital of Kalimantan or Indonesian Borneo. Reports said more than 15,000 Madurese fled in cars and boats or were evacuated in military trucks to escape the gangs of ethnic Malay, Dayak and Bugis men hunting them down with spears, sickles, pitchforks, daggers, bamboo staves and swords. Bodies of victims have been cut open and their hearts eaten.

Security officials admitted yesterday that the death toll of 114 accounted only for the bodies counted by the military. Many more are believed to have died. General Wiranto, the Armed Forces commander, said yesterday that he was deploying more troops amid concern that the unrest might spread.

For the most part the military has stayed clear of the conflict. Police and soldiers did not intervene as rioters in the town of Sambas systematically smashed and burnt home after home. Security forces have passed severed heads in the road without stopping. They have let armed men roar through towns on motorcycles and in lorries.



Even ethnic Chinese, the frequent target of resentment elsewhere in Indonesia because they dominate commerce, are pitching in. As gangs ransacked and burned houses near Sambas, Chinese shopkeepers drove up in a van and distributed boxes of water and dried noodles.

Even though many Madurese moved to Borneo decades ago or were born on the island, they have been subject to suspicion and periodic attacks by the indigenous people. The conflict is as much about racial prejudice as disputes over jobs or land.

The Madurese were moved into Kalimantan by government fiat over the years since Madura island is extremely poor and barely able to support its population of three million. Resentment among the local communities has been mounting as job opportunities have gone to the Madurese.

The Indonesian authorities have consistently failed to deal with complaints against the Madurese. The most immediate cause of the unrest appears to be the failure to bring to justice two Madurese men who were involved in a killing in January of three people, two Malays and a Dayak.

In similar bloodletting in late 1996 and early 1997, Dayak men assaulted Madurese communities, and soldiers trying to halt the fighting fired on mobs in some instances. Human rights groups say up to 500 people died.

Indonesia's transmigration policy, in which landless farmers are moved to other provinces, has been carried out for more than ten years using foreign aid in spite of the ethnic tensions inherent in the strategy. The policy has been aimed principally at relieving tensions and overcrowding on Java to make life better for the elite Javanese who have little time for unsophisticated tribal people such as the Dayaks and the Madurese.

The authoritarian regime of former President Suharto was largely successful in keeping a lid on the social tensions that have always lingered in Indonesia, which has 210 million people and more than 13,000 islands. But his tight controls have unraveled as Indonesia moves toward democracy.

For the Government in Jakarta a continuing failure to address the ethnic and regional tensions could store up more trouble for it at a time when there is serious concern being expressed about the viability of the Indonesian archipelago continuing to remain under one administration.

The ethnic problems in Kalimantan come after weeks of religious clashes between Christians and Muslims on the spice island of Ambon.

For the moment East Timor is enjoying a period of quiet after violent clashes between pro-Indonesian and pro-independence factions. Aceh, on the northern tip of Sumatra and the seat of an historically powerful sultanate, has long wanted to secede.



ANASTASIA VRACHNOS / AFP

Two tribesmen congratulate each other after burning homes in northwest Kalimantan, where a Malay woman and her Madurese grandchild, below, were among those forced to take refuge in a military barracks



WORLD SUMMARY

China-US links hit 'low point'

Hong Kong: William Perry, the former US Defence Secretary, said yesterday that growing anti-Chinese rhetoric in Washington posed one of the greatest risks to security in the Asian-Pacific area. He told the Asia Society: "I cannot point to a time in recent history when I was more concerned about the relationship." He added that opposition to the US policy of China engagement seems to be growing and could yet gain the ascendancy. *(Reuters)*

Reef talks open

Manila: China took a hardline stance at a "confidence-building" meeting between itself and the Philippines over Beijing's military structures on the disputed Mischief Reef in the Spratly Islands.

Cyclone strikes

Perth: Cyclone Vance, with winds of up to 185mph, left a trail of destruction along the northwest coast of Western Australia. Exmouth, 800 miles northwest of Perth, bore the brunt. *(AFP)*

Beduin must go

Jerusalem: Israel is preparing to deport to Egypt some 800 Beduin who fled the Sinai following a blood feud with a rival tribe. It is also seeking assurances about how Egypt will protect the Beduin.

Prisoner swap

Islamabad: Pakistan and India swapped civilian prisoners for the first time in ten years," the Foreign Minister, Sartaj Aziz, said. Pakistan handed over 15 in exchange for 43 at the border near Lahore. *(AFP)*

Cult man charged

Melbourne: Alistah Laishkochav, 71, a cult leader with nine wives and 65 children, faces 22 charges including indecent assault and causing injury to four children aged eight, nine and ten. *(AFP)*

Culture clash as France grapples with sleaze

Customary Gallic shrug deemed inadequate by northern European states, writes **Adam Sage**

A SPATE of scandals involving sex, fraud and nepotism has catapulted France into a struggle between Gallic flamboyance and northern European rectitude.

Amid the fallout from Edith Cresson's ignominious departure from Brussels, the French have been stunned by sleaze allegations against President Chirac and Roland Dumas, the country's most senior judge. The traditional shrug with which French society has greeted such affairs in the past has suddenly been made to look misplaced in the wake of the European Commission's resignation.

In an interview yesterday, M Dumas admitted that it would be very difficult for him to remain as head of the Constitutional Council, the French equivalent of the US Supreme Court. His comment was stark evidence of the tensions pulling at a country that feels both pride and guilt at its Mediterranean roots.

Widespread sympathy for M Dumas emphasises French attachment to the cultural style established by Napoleon. But that co-exists with a recognition that such customs place France at odds with the democratic accountability demanded by northern European electorates.

Many politicians have grudgingly accepted the view that they will have to change their ways if they want to remain a force in Europe, although some are still convinced that it is the dull, honest, no-sex northerners who will have to change.

"The Cresson affair has been enormously important because French people have been able to see what criteria other countries use," Michel Martin-Roland, an author and commentator, said. "They were astonished at the Commission's resignation. This is the start of big changes."

He cited the Dumas scandal as a case in point. Instinctively, voters are sympathic to the handsome 76-year-old former Foreign Minister. So what if he had a mistress? they ask. So what if the mistrtess was given Fr660 million (£6.7 million) to lobby him on behalf of the oil group, Elf Aquitaine? So what if some of the money found its way into his bank account?

Yet although the French can understand their leaders' need for a little sex and money, they cannot forgive anyone who brings *grandeur* into disrepute. And that is what M Dumas is perceived to have done. His fellow citzens may smile at his antics, but they realise, in the wake of the crisis in Brussels, that he looks like an irresponsible clown to northern eyes.

Alain Madelin, leader of the right-wing Liberal Democracy party, said: "Roland Dumas is giving France an awful image." As a result, most voters agree with M Madelin that M Dumas should resign.

Similar arguments apply to Mme Cresson. In France, the nepotism that brought her downfall is a way of life. Indeed, it would have been mean of her to refuse a job to her long-time friend, René Berthelot, many believe. According to the journalist, Christine Ockrent, Mme Cresson fell victim to the "rigid, hypocritical Protestant culture that is dominant in Europe".

Like most of her compatriots, Mme Ockrent is dismissive of that culture, "with its obsession about sex". Yet she accepts that France must adapt to it or face the fate that befell Mme Cresson. "The tendency is towards more transparency, even if we will never become Swedish," she said.

But there are limits to the evolution. Last week it emerged that an investigating magistrate had obtained a letter implicating President Chirac in a scandal dating from 1993. Yvan Bot, the state prosecutor, ruled on Friday that there was strong evidence to suggest that M Chirac had been guilty of fraud. But M Bot added that the head of state enjoyed immunity as long as he remained in office. Yesterday, politicians and commentators closed ranks around M Chirac in a sign that old Gallic reflexes die hard, no matter what the northern Europeans say.

A brief look at history suggests that M Chirac will survive. For the past 200 years periodic bouts of popular anger have invariably been followed by the quest for a ruler with panache, an iron fist and the ability to turn a blind eye to misdemeanours. From Bonaparte to de Gaulle and Mitterrand, such leaders have always been appreciated.

Blair backs Prodi to lead reformed EU

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, AND CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

TONY BLAIR is expected tomorrow to back Romano Prodi, the former Italian Prime Minister, as the next head of the European Commission and the man he wants to be Europe's "chief executive" into the next century.

Amid signs that Europe's leaders may now try to settle on a successor to Jacques Santer at the two-day summit in Berlin, Mr Blair was reported last night to regard Signor Prodi as a man of "considerable ability, a real reformer and a high-quality person".

Over recent days Mr Blair has let it be known that he would be happy with both Signor Prodi and Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister. But he has spoken to Mr Kok who has given indications he will not throw his hat into the ring.

Other European Union states have also indicated they will back Signor Prodi, in particular Germany, which holds the European Union presidency. Giving an upbeat view, Joschka Fischer, the German Foreign Minister, said the EU leaders hoped to put forward the name of the new nominee to the European Parliament for its endorsement early next month. That would mean reaching a unanimous accord in Berlin.

While Signor Prodi is by far the most likely candidate, a final accord will be complicated by the need to achieve a deal on revamping EU finances in Berlin. The presidency decision will be part of the horse-trading among leaders over reforming the EU budget.

Britain offered warm praise yesterday for the way the German presidency, bitterly attacked last month by the French Government, had handled budget negotiations.

That appeared to be confirmation that Britain now expects Gerhard Schröder to step back from a row over Britain's £2 billion rebate. Britain supports ideas to amend the way EU budget contributions are made, moving away from the present VAT-based system to one tilted towards gross national product. That would have the impact of reducing Britain and Germany's gross contributions; as a result the size of the rebate would also fall.



REUTERS

Aleksandr Lebed, still busy freeing Russian hostages from Chechnya, is embroiled in a Krasnoyarsk power struggle that he must win if he wants to be President

Lebed offers Russia recipe for iron rule

Anna Blundy meets a general talking tough on law and order

RUSSIA is a brutal country and people need to be taught what they can and cannot do. So growls Aleksandr Lebed, gritty Governor of Krasnoyarsk and a key presidential contender. He adds: "Why do people kill wolves? Because the wolves interfere with and threaten their way of life."

General Lebed, 48, is a fervent believer in the death penalty and a passionate opponent of Russia's two-year moratorium on capital punishment. "The murderer is not a man, but a beast who should be shot," he says — a view many crime-weary Russians are likely to support.

As the present regime sets about destroying itself with a depressingly familiar round of scandals and in-fighting, the general, with his military abruptness and no-nonsense air, is beginning to some to seem an attractive alternative.

It is a tense time for the general, who is head of the Independent Organisation for Bringing Peace to the North Caucasus. Peace there is fragile and events have conspired to shatter it — not least a television report that a recently freed Russian soldier, taken hostage in 1991, was bought and sold as a slave during his eight years of captivity.

As the man who signed the peace with Chechnya after its disastrous war with Russia in 1996, General Lebed is naturally worried by the mounting threat of conflict.

Just as Aslan Maskhadov, President of Chechnya, and Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Prime Minister, agreed to meet, a bomb in Vladikavkaz, capital of North Ossetia, killed 80 people, and an assassination attempt was made on Mr Maskhadov himself.

Both events have made the freeing of Russian hostages from Chechnya — one of General Lebed's principal goals — more difficult.Not the most charismatic of men, his strong point is action, not conversation. As he discussed the hostages, his desk in Russia's Upper House of Parliament is strewn with letters and photographs from the families of some 100 Russian servicemen missing in Chechnya.

He clearly feels a deep responsibility for those left behind. They are not high-profile hostages and little publicity is given to their plight.

General Lebed controls two groups of hostage-seekers, each comprising five men. Hostages are taken usually for money or as a bargaining tool to win the release of Chechens imprisoned in Russia. The job of his men is to negotiate ransoms down to a "reasonable amount" — £6,000 to £12,000 — and then bargain.

He says that he has never paid a kopek for a hostage, but his people do arrange for payment to be made. If one group of Chechens has demanded a ransom for a hostage and another has no hostage but is willing to pay for the release of a relative held in Russia, his men encourage them to do a deal, then effect the exchange.

The general's chances of gaining the presidency are debatable and his springboard governorship has proved less successful than he might have liked. In Krasnoyarsk he has become embroiled in a power struggle with a local tycoon. "Nobody has won the battle yet," he says. "It remains to be seen who is stronger — the law or the criminal."

Analysts agree that only if he proves victorious will his presidential bid — he is currently trailing fourth in presidential succession polls — be taken seriously in 2000.


Anderson: was held captive for six years

Hostage sues Iran for $100m

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE American journalist Terry Anderson who was held hostage for six years in Lebanon by Hezbollah, yesterday sued Iran — as the sponsor of his captors — for damages of $100 million (£61.7 million).

In doing so, he put himself on a collision course with the Clinton Administration, which is blocking the efforts of Americans to recover damages.

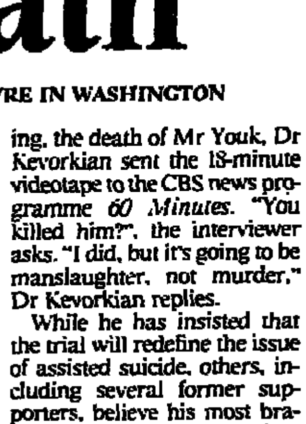
Lawyers for Mr Anderson — working on a no win, no fee basis — say that government objections include possible future complications in dealings with the countries. Iran, for example, holds US property on its soil, just as the US Government has custody of Iranian property in America.

Mr Anderson has little expectation of receiving any money soon, but said: "If we don't file a suit, we won't be sitting at the table whenever Iran and the US settle accounts."

The Administration refuses to explain its position, which runs counter to the wishes of Congress, which three years ago passed an act enabling Americans to go to court.

Mr Anderson, 51, a Middle East correspondent for Associated Press, was held, shackled and blindfolded. Iran denies sponsoring Hezbollah.

Murder trial for 'Doctor Death'



FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

JACK KEVORKIAN, the euthanasia campaigner who has presided over the suicide of more than 130 people in the past nine years and earned the nickname "Dr Death", went on trial for murder yesterday after he was seen by millions on prime-time US television administering a lethal solution to a terminally ill man.

A videotape of Dr Kevorkian ending the life of Thomas Youk, a 52-year-old sufferer of a motor neuron disease, was broadcast on the CBS television network in November, prompting widespread outrage.

Dr Kevorkian, 70, a retired pathologist, has been brought to trial four times for breaking laws banning assisted suicide, — bringing three acquittals and one mistrial — but has never faced a murder charge. He could be jailed for life if convicted, while the charge of illegally delivering a controlled substance is punishable by up to seven years in prison.

The trial was provoked by Dr Kevorkian in his crusade to allow assisted suicide. But, as well as marking a milestone in the euthanasia debate, the case may set a legal precedent: the Michigan jury will be able to see the defendant committing the act which the prosecution claims is murder.

After filming, and narrating, the death of Mr Youk, Dr Kevorkian sent the 18-minute videotape to the CBS news programme *60 Minutes*. "You killed him?", the interviewer asks. "I did, but it's going to be manslaughter, not murder," Dr Kevorkian replies.

While he has insisted that the trial will redefine the issue of assisted suicide, others, including several former supporters, believe his most brazen act of defiance is a reflection of the retired pathologist's increasing self-absorption.

"He wants to be a martyr. This is about focusing attention on himself." Geoffrey Fieger, the lawyer who successfully represented him in four earlier trials, said. "He didn't have to push the envelope this far. This fits the legal definition of murder."

Dr Kevorkian will present his own defence, with the aid of four lawyers. The law holds that whether Mr Youk consented to die is immaterial, but while Dr Kevorkian's acts may be murder technically, his defence is likely to hinge on an emotional appeal to the jurors to consider the suffering of the victim.

Mr Youk suffered from Lou Gehrig's disease, a progressively fatal illness, and the videotape shows him barely able to speak, breathe or move his limbs. In the television programme, which sharply boosted viewer ratings for CBS, Dr Kevorkian insists that Mr Youk was "choking to death . . . I couldn't have him suffer in that frame of mind, because if the man is terrified, it's up to me to dispel that terror."

Patrick Keenan, a Detroit legal expert, said: "Kevorkian's victory depends on getting people on the jury that have, and will act on, those feelings enough to overcome the effect of the evidence of first-degree murder."

JEFF KOWALSKY / REUTERS


Jack Kevorkian with one of his suicide machines. The retired pathologist hopes the murder trial jury will sympathise with his wish to end Thomas Youk's suffering

Piggy-bank raiders play the market

Wall St lures young investors home from school, writes James Bone

THE next generation of United States capitalists is being born as an increasing number of teenagers raid their piggy banks to invest their pocket money in the sky-rocketing stockmarket.

The Internet has made "day-trading" on Wall Street an after-school hobby that competes with skateboarding and hanging out at the local McDonald's among the computer-savvy kids known as "Generation Y".

Tens of thousands of children, some as young as eight or nine, have started playing the bull market through so-called "custodial accounts" set up by their parents to help them to invest their pocket money.

"Junior Achievement" investment classes are now offered even to primary school pupils, and share clubs are booming in secondary schools as young investors seek to emulate the skills of the titans of Wall Street.

To meet the burgeoning demand, Disney recently issued a series of educational videos about investing with such titles as *Tyrannosaurus Debt* and *Walkin' on Wall Street*. One cartoon, starring a talking pigeon which buys shares in the fictional Whiz Bang Cola company, drums home its message with the refrain: "Remember the rule. Buy low, sell high. Take your piece of the pie."

An increasing number of websites provide investment advice to those too young to buy a six-pack of beer. Some are even run by teenagers themselves.

After selling his small software firm for $30,000 (£18,000), Jay Liebowitz, 16, from Northridge, California, quadrupled his money on the stock market and decided to set up his own on-line service. His web home page has now received more than two million hits.

Minors under 18 need a custodian to open a brokerage account, so there is no official tally of under-age investors. But an estimated 34 per cent of recent school leavers, aged 18 to 24, hold shares at present.

Parents, encouraged by their own success in America's long-running boom and fearful that the social security system will be bankrupt by the time their children retire, are eager to teach their children how they can become successful investors.

To cater to this increasing need, Wall Street firms have opened funds devoted to the young investor.

The Stein Roe Young Investor Fund, for instance, which manages about $700 million (£435 million), sends educational materials to its youthful clients to enable them to understand their share holdings.

Its young investors would have learnt a cruel lesson last year, however. The fund's 15 per cent return significantly underperformed when compared with the leading market indices.

The Stock Market Game 2000, a twice-yearly share-picking contest for 9 to 15-year-olds organised by the Securities Industry Association, has seen participation rise by 50 per cent over the past year, to 200,000.

Now available over the Internet (www.smg2000.org), the game comes with copious teaching materials and is increasingly integrated into school mathematics or social studies classes.

"Given the fact that more than 40 per cent of American households are investing directly or indirectly, educating investors or potential investors about how the system operates is important," Margaret Draper, the association's spokesman, said.

"The great thing is how kids in disadvantaged areas have realised that there are posibilities beyond their block," she said. "They have realised that maybe they can become investment bankers too."

Falklands cut off in Pinochet protest

BY MICHAEL BINYON DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

ANGERED by the continued detention of General Pinochet, Chile will this week cut off the Falkland Islands from South America. The last flight linking the islands with southern Chile will leave on Saturday.

The Falklands Government is making last-minute efforts to keep the vital air bridge going, and has denounced what it calls the blatantly political decision not to renew the weekly flight. But the islanders insist they will never accept a proposed alternative link to Uruguay that would go via Argentina. Uruguay is ready to operate a flight to the Falklands, but only if it touches down in Buenos Aires. The two countries are partners in the Mercosur trading bloc, and Montevideo will not sanction a link to the islands which Argentina claims without approval from Buenos Aires.

"The moment that we have direct and exclusive air links through Argentina, they will have very firm control over us," Mike Summers, a leading Falklands councillor, said. "To be forced to fly through Argentina is not acceptable. In the short term we prefer to be without a link. It is a nuisance, but not a disaster."

The islanders' rejection of the proposal comes amid warnings from Argentina that it may toughen its stand over the Falklands, believing that the "charm offensive" has proved fruitless.

Lan Chile, the airline operating the link, has been summoned to a meeting with the Chilean Foreign Ministry today. Falklanders were yesterday pessimistic that the service would continue, but said it would cost Chile £6 million in lost trade if it was scrapped.

Isolation from South America could deal a devastating blow to the fledgling tourist industry in the Falklands and it will cut off the supply of fresh fruit and vegetables.

Without the Chilean link, the Falklands will have to rely on the RAF flights to Britain via Ascension island.



A world of ideas on public policy.

A look ahead: healthcare in the "Century of Biology"

By Dr. David McGibney

A Nobel prize-winning chemist recently predicted that if "this was the century of physics and chemistry... it is clear that the next century will be the century of biology." At the heart of this new century of science will be the new genetic information scientists are just beginning to understand – information that will transform our lives in the century to come.

This is the compelling case for basic science of a very high order. The conventional wisdom has always been that we in Britain are very good at this kind of "pure" science, but rather lacklustre when it comes to applying the results. Our industry's experience contradicts this supposition. The evolution of medicine in this century coincided with the evolution of the pharmaceutical industry in Britain, the bringing together of research and theory with manufacturing and the ability to meet demand. This coupling of new scientific discovery with the ability to make it available will continue to propel the evolution from the old way of simply managing pain, to ameliorating disease, to, someday soon, preventing disease in the first place.

To turn this optimistic view of the future into tangible results, we need a world-leading scientific infrastructure, investment in basic research initiatives, a pool of world class scientists, and an education system which encourages students to enter the sciences and gives them the encouragement and facilities to reach their potential.

In short, a steady stream of strong and fundamental research is needed to underpin a constant stream of innovation, producing medicines that allow people to lead active and productive lives while suffering from conditions that once would have left them as invalids, or worse, dead. And the pharmaceuticals of the next century are going to move beyond merely keeping people alive or relieving pain to actually unlocking the very mystery of what causes disease. The decoding of the human genome is no longer in the realm of science fiction. We are already using molecular genetics to produce vaccines and drugs such as human insulin. We are also using cloned human proteins as targets for new drug discovery. The human genome project offers challenges and opportunities beyond our imagination. It is here that we find the most compelling case for a strong and vibrant future for the pharmaceutical industry.

By 2025, a third or more of populations in the developed world will be over 60. These people will be much better informed about healthcare options than historically has been the case, and the demand for quality healthcare will increase. In the years ahead, we may see drugs that treat frailty and prevent falls in the elderly, mend broken bones quickly, and cause wounds to heal overnight. By continually reducing the disability rates in the elderly population, such treatments have the potential to lower healthcare costs. These are the kind of life-saving and life-enhancing products that will be in demand as we move into the future. Whether or not we can meet this demand will depend largely on the policies of the countries where these innovations are taking place.

The United States and the UK are currently the preferred sites for healthcare investment, because of their perceived willingness and ability to support innovation. This could be in danger, however, if our attempts at healthcare reform continue to focus on cutting spending by reducing the cost of healthcare or by restricting the drugs budget, rather than by trying to lower the cost of disease. At present, the UK is lagging well behind all of its trading partners, both in terms of the percentage of GDP spent on healthcare, and in the private funding of healthcare. We would like to see legislators engage with our industry to confront these issues and "think the unthinkable" about healthcare. Given our proud history of healthcare discovery, and our promising future of further innovation, we must find imaginative ways to pay for quality healthcare for all. It certainly cannot be by the publicly funded monopoly we have at present. Here, as in America, we must be willing to invest in the new technologies in order to reap their ultimate benefit – a reduction in the cost of disease to our economies and our societies.

> ***We must be willing to invest in the new technologies in order to reap their ultimate benefit – a reduction in the cost of disease***

Dr. David McGibney is Senior Vice-President Medical Research and Development, Europe, Pfizer Central Research, Sandwich, Kent. This article is based on his recent "Cantor Lecture" delivered to the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures & Commerce. The full lecture will be available from the RSA, (8 John Adam Street, London WC2N 6EZ) later in the year and can be found on the Pfizer website at http www.pfizer.com pfizerinc policy-center.html.

Pfizer

Israel envoy 'had affair with a spy'

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S Ambassador in Pretoria has been investigated over an affair with a woman reportedly working for South African military intelligence.

In an internal report the Israeli Foreign Ministry concluded that the diplomat, Uri Oren, had an intimate relationship with the woman whose name has not been published but headed what it described as the South African defence force's "foreign relations unit".

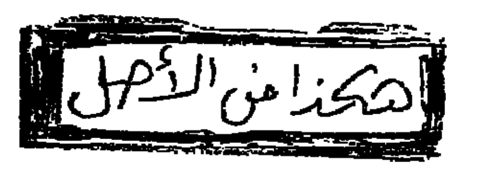
Despite the scandal Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Foreign Minister, and the ministry's director-general, Eitan Bentsur, decided that Mr Oren should not be recalled and could continue in his post.

"It is a personal matter. As far as we are concerned, nothing prevents Oren from continuing to carry out his job," an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman told the *Ha'aretz* newspaper, which broke the story. This indicates that the Israeli Foreign Ministry found no evidence that the relationship had put at risk the security of the Jewish State.

Israeli intelligence agencies, are well-known for their use of women to help trap their prey. In 1986 a young female Israeli agent working for Mossad aided in the capture of Mordechai Vanunu, who had revealed Israeli nuclear secrets to *The Sunday Times*. Unaware of her true identity, he followed her from London to Rome, where he was kidnapped, taken to Israel and sentenced for treason.

Mr Oren has been ordered to end his ties with the officer and has pledged to do so.





Is this the end of the hospital killer bug?

MEDICINE CHEST

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

In early December last year, Joné Ashbourne's family's greatest hope was that she would live beyond Christmas. Mrs Ashbourne, of Notting Hill, London, is now alive and well, fever-free, climbing stairs like an 18-year-old and looking after her house and husband. The only outward difference in Mrs Ashbourne's appearance is that after surviving two potentially fatal diseases — non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and bacterial endocarditis — she is now a redhead, rather than a blonde.

Mrs Ashbourne became infected with multi-resistant bacteria last autumn, which had caused septicaemia and an endocarditis, an inflammation of the inner lining and valves of the heart. An abscess also formed around the root of the mitral valve that would in time have destroyed the valve and caused fatal heart failure. Mrs Ashbourne was fortunate as she was one of the earliest patients in the UK to be treated with Linezolid, a new class of antibiotics, the oxazolidinones, the details of which are being presented at a symposium of the Ninth European Congress of Clinical Microbiology in Berlin today.

Linezolid, manufactured by Pharmacia & Upjohn, is effective against methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), the dreaded and often lethal hospital organism, other gram-positive bacteria resistant to such powerful antibiotics as vancomycin, trovafloxacin, teicoplanin, as well as the more mundane ones regularly used in general practice.

Laboratory testing has failed to find any gram-positive organism which is resistant to Linezolid at present. It has proved to be the most active anti-bacterial agent tested against vancomycin-resistant organisms. Most drug-resistant problems stem from staphylococci, streptococci and enterococci. These are the strains that are the basis of horror stories in the press and these are the organisms that are sensitive to Linezolid. Mrs Ashbourne's septicaemia and her mitral valve abscess was the result of methicillin-resistant staphylococcus epidermis (MRSE).

In most people this gives rise to no more than a nasty infected pimple but in an immuno-compromised person, as she was to become after treatment for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, it can cause serious problems. Mrs Ashbourne's medical adventure started in December 1997 when her Christmas was spoilt by what she assumed to be flu. She had a persistent temperature, higher in the evenings, but never more than about 100F, aching limbs and a feeling of unutterable weariness. In mid-January — still not over the "flu" — she noticed that she had a lump growing above her collarbone. Biopsies (removal of tissue for examination) showed that the swelling was caused by a gland infiltrated with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, cancer of the lymph glands.

Mrs Ashbourne had two courses of chemotherapy delivered through a Hickman line, a continuous intravenous drip which enables doctors to spare a patient repeated intravenous injections. By October the lump had disappeared and her chest was clear, but unfortunately the patient didn't feel better, and by November very much worse. Her temperature was 101F each evening, she was again tired and by now slightly breathless. Blood cultures revealed the septicaemia, presumably introduced through the Hickman line. The patient's resistance had been lowered by the chemotherapy and steroids and multi-resistant organisms had settled in her mitral valve damaged by rheumatic fever earlier in life. Although the organism was resistant to most antibiotics, there was some feeble response to vancomycin in the laboratory but even so Mrs Ashbourne's temperature didn't settle and she remained seriously ill. Fortunately, news of Linezolid's advent was beginning to be discussed at medical dinners and its manufacturers kindly agreed to release some for her on compassionate grounds. Once treated, Mrs Ashbourne lost symptoms of septicaemia and by Christmas her temperature was normal.

Vancomycin was discontinued when it began to affect kidney function, but Linezolid therapy was maintained. So good was the recovery that by January 15 Mrs Ashbourne was considered infection-free and fit to have a new artificial mitral valve fitted. The operation has been a complete success, examination has shown that the valve works well, she is not breathless, her feet are not swelling and equally importantly, there is no sign of any recurrence of her lymphoma.

At surgery, the pus in the abscess was sterile — the antibiotic had done its work. Mrs Ashbourne primarily owes her life to the inventive research of Pharmacia & Upjohn which produces Linezolid, but also to her oncologist, cardiologist and heart surgeon and as well, of course, to the propensity of doctors to enjoy medical chat when they wine and dine.

Why did her hair go red? Nobody knows — after chemotherapy it grew back in its normal pepper and salt but when her hairdresser applied the usual mixture, instead of turning it a uniform blonde, the hair went red. Chemotherapy has unexpected effects on hair. Linezolid is likely to be generally available in about a year.

Saved by a mother's courage

A 17-year-old boy, thought to be brain-dead, has survived against all odds. **Moira Petty** reports



ASADOUR GUZELIAN

Gregory Dygas: his mother Teresa watches over him at the Holly Lodge Traumatic Brain Injury Unit, near Sheffield, where he lies semi-conscious yet responsive to visitors and other stimuli

Gregory Dygas was an unexceptional teenager, a shy youth who worked diligently at school and always had a smile for his neighbours. Head of the family is his mother Teresa, a divorcée, who has scrimped on social security benefit to bring up her children. This seemingly unremarkable family has been transformed over the past 11 months by a tragedy.

On April 7 last year, Gregory, then 16, collapsed and "died" while in the throes of an asthma attack. He was resuscitated but 11 days later a second cardiac arrest increased the severity of the initial brain damage and left him more deeply comatose. Several more times he cheated death as Teresa sat by his bed, willing him to live. Gregory's father, who is paralysed after a stroke, has visited Gregory. But his illness means that it is Teresa who arranges Gregory's care.

In the months that followed, Teresa waged a battle for her son's life. Defying doctors who said that he was brain-dead, she refused to permit withdrawal of his medication, claiming that he was communicating with his eyes. Teresa mounted a sophisticated press and television campaign aimed at shaming the Lincolnshire Health Authority into paying for her son's treatment in a specialist unit, rather than seeing him die in a nursing home.

Five months after admission to Holly Lodge Traumatic Brain Injury Unit, near Sheffield, Gregory and his family have proved the experts wrong. He is semi-conscious, responsive to visitors and other stimuli, has a stable heart-rate and blood-pressure readings. The health authority says that as long as his condition continues to improve it will meet the £1,400 a week in costs at the private unit. His next assessment is due in June.

"We are living on our nerves wondering if they will withdraw the money," Teresa says. "He has made such wonderful progress since he came here but we have had to fight every inch of the way." The Dygas family's predicament has wider implications. In July, the British Medical Association will issue a directive relating to withdrawal of treatment for critically ill patients.

It is a five-hour bus journey over almost 100 miles from Teresa's bungalow in Louth, Lincolnshire, to Holly Lodge, which lies on the edge of the Yorkshire Moors. There I meet Teresa, a slender 48-year-old, who admits to having existed on coffee and cigarettes for the past year. With her is Gregory's twin sister, Isabel. Gregory lies motionless, his twisted ribcage giving his body an involuntary curve, his arms and hands contorted by muscle spasms.

Mandy Hassall, a specialist nurse at the Holly Lodge unit, confirms that Gregory is not in a vegetative state despite previous pronouncements. "He is going through a programme of sensory stimulation," she explains. "For example, we will stimulate the olfactory system by giving him different smells, then do the same for his other senses, observing his responses. He is relaxed, comfortable and not in pain. Teresa was here when we first sat him in a special chair and he smiled several times."

Opposite Gregory's bed, juxtaposed with pictures of his idol, Diana Ross, stand statues of Jesus and Mary. Teresa bought them to mark his 17th birthday (December 24) and Christmas. "He always wanted to go to America to see Diana Ross but I don't suppose that will be possible now," she says. It is far too early to make an accurate prognosis but the family and staff at Holly Lodge talk in terms of giving him the best quality of life possible. Teresa says: "Everyone says it's a miracle that he's alive."

> I learnt that it had taken three electric shocks to revive him

Gregory suffered the attack while visiting a friend's house. Unable to breathe, he collapsed but still managed to plead for an ambulance. Paramedics spent 20 minutes reinflating his lungs and resuscitating him.

Teresa was asked to wait in a relatives' room at Louth Hospital. "I was shaking from head to foot and needed to know if he was dead or alive," she says. "Later I learnt that it had taken three electric shocks to revive him."

Gregory was moved to intensive care in a hospital in Worksop, 60 miles away. "They warned me I should spend the night with him but first I had to sort out my elderly mother and Roger, my younger son, who was asking for his tea."

Eight days later, he was taken off life-support and began opening his eyes. He was transferred back to Louth and had his tracheostomy tube removed. "His breathing was bad for two-and-a-half days and he had the second heart attack," Teresa says.

Another intensive-care unit bed was found, this time at Hull Royal Infirmary. In May, a neurosurgeon showed Gregory's brain scan to Teresa. "He said he was profoundly brain-damaged and would always be in a vegetative state," she says. "It was a matter of time before an infection or a blood clot killed him. They said they would not resuscitate him again and that was out of my hands. But I had the choice of whether or not to withdraw the antibiotics. They wanted to stop all the treatment and let him go but I would not agree. They said he was a shell and asked would he want to live like that? But I could see emotion in his eyes."

Teresa's greatest fear, knowing the doctors would not revive him, was that Gregory might suffer a heart attack. "I didn't want to watch him die. His huge blue eyes were frightened — I wrapped myself around him, pulled him to me." Teresa says that she felt under pressure to change her mind about his treatment: "It was a lot of money for one patient because it would be long-term. For that money they could do several transplants."

Twice Lincolnshire Health Authority decided not to send him to a nursing home; Teresa drummed up support from the media and Gregory was admitted to Holly Lodge in October.

"Right up to the end, doctors at Hull were saying Gregory was brain-dead," Teresa says. "He is still communicating with his eyes. When I talk to him emotionally and say I wish he'd taken his asthma more seriously, or that I feel guilty, his eyes fill with tears. When I tell him how well he's doing, his eyes are bright."

The Dygas family is no stranger to tragedy. Teresa's eldest son Robert died at 20 after an acute bronchial attack. "I was determined never to give up on Gregory," she says. "I don't want to lose a second son. I feel so strong about keeping him alive."

BRUCE CHATWIN: A STORYTELLER'S LIFE

I knew Bruce was ambidextrous,

The writer Bruce Chatwin was a man of contradictions: a devoted husband and an active homosexual, **Nicholas Shakespeare** reveals in the first extract from his outstanding biography



Bruce Chatwin hit London early in the 1960s. He was a solicitor's son from the Midlands, born in 1940; he had gone to Marlborough, and had left school at 18 to become a porter at Sotheby's. Not a beginning from which one would confidently have predicted a life of such fame. But he was blond and handsome, a fountain of vitality, and even as a schoolboy he had an amazing eye for antique objects — both for their beauty and their authenticity.

He did not remain a porter at Sotheby's for long. He was soon offering clients advice as he trundled the canvasses about and the powers at Sotheby's soon realised what a treasure they had taken on. He became the Impressionist cataloguer and by his early twenties was a director. His looks were as desirable as his natural expertise. When he started travelling the world, trying to persuade collectors to sell, his employers knew that he was part of the bait.

But it was the travelling he wanted — and when he became a writer, it was as the voice of the postwar nomad. His first nomadic adventures, however, were in that smart literary London of the 1960s — the world of Mark Boxer and George Melly, Sybille Bedford and Emma Tennant. He was soon a great favourite there. In his midtwenties he gave up Sotheby's. He went to Edinburgh University to read archaeology and married a girl called Elizabeth who was to be a loyal and long-suffering wife. Then he started travelling in earnest — to Patagonia, to Africa, to the East.

Bruce Chatwin: nomadic

It was not until he was 37 that he published his first book, *In Patagonia* — and once he had begun he was totally committed, writing his books with the same excitement he brought to his talk. *In Patagonia* brought him fame. It wove together brilliant details from the lives of people he met in South America, episodes gleaming with homosexual feeling and heterosexual beauty, held in the imagination of a narrator who revealed nothing of himself but his joy in wandering.

Chatwin was always to remain an elusive personality. His private life was as full of disconnections as his books. There was a series of homosexual love-affairs, and some of his friends did not even know for a long time that he was married. His second book, *The Viceroy of Ouidah* is about the life of a Brazilian slave-trader in Africa who hates any kind of confinement and yet spends his time among the manacles and dungeons. It too is full of abrupt transitions from one vivid and colourful evocation to another — yet it made a successful film, in Werner Herzog's hands, as *Cobra Verde*.

Chatwin's third book was quite different — as if he longed to write about rooted lives, with slow rhythms. *On the Black Hill* is the story of two Welsh brothers who never leave each other or their farm. He took huge trouble over it and it is an agreeable read. *Songlines*, his next book, brought him the greatest success. It goes back to the manner of *In Patagonia* and is his chief hymn to the wandering life. Salman Rushdie travelled round Australia with him collecting material for it. After that Chatwin produced the novel *Utz*, a short but dry study of an obsessed art collector in Prague.

He died in January 1989, aged 48, of Aids. For a while he had persuaded friends that he was suffering from a fungal disease caused by eating Chinese eggs — but he knew the truth.

William Wordsworth wrote a poem about a young contemporary of his who died — "I think of Chatterton, that marvellous boy". "Chatwin, that marvellous boy" is how his friends will remember him.

DERWENT MAY

ELIZABETH CHATWIN



Elizabeth and Bruce at their wedding: she may have hoped that marriage would change things

Friends were thunderstruck at news of the engagement. 'The idea of Bruce getting married seemed bananas'

Elizabeth Chanler was two years older than Bruce. She was small, bubbly, shy. Bruce told a friend that he met her on a dig in Persia: by the end of the day they had fallen into the sack "like two warm rabbits". In fact they met at Sotheby's. From her secretary's desk Elizabeth watched him talk to a client. "I could see him from behind, in a charcoal-grey suit with a high detachable collar, standing there, looking at something, his blond hair sticking up." She had read *The Lord of the Rings*: Bruce was like Strider.

Bruce took no special notice of her at first. After he had an operation on his varicose veins she visited him in his nursing home. He lay eating caviare. "He never offered me any. Then he asked me to buy him an Hermès diary. When I found out how much it cost I said no." He asked her to dinner but then cancelled because there would be too many women. "He had awful manners in lots of ways."

His fascination with America woke him up to Elizabeth, the only American at Sotheby's. On visits to New York he learnt how her Catholic East Coast pedigree was so exclusive as to be almost impenetrable. Hearing her tell a story about a fly in a New York flat, he felt "This was a woman I could marry". But he took a year to make up his mind, and spent it sampling the nomadic life in Sudan.

Elizabeth did not hear from him while he was gone. Then in April he rang: "Can you have lunch?" She met him at his new flat in Mount Street. Bruce told her about Sudan. Then he asked: "Do you want to come to Paris for Easter?" He went ahead by train. Elizabeth drove him to the station, planning to follow by air. On the platform he gave her a leatherette box, not to be opened until the train had left. She opened it in her car. Inside was a Greek ring of the 5th century BC. The intaglio was a wounded lioness, her head thrown back, pulling a spear from her side. "Not entirely suitable as an engagement present," he later wrote of it. "But I think it the loveliest Greek ring I ever saw."

Elizabeth was overjoyed: "It came out of the blue. Usually people drop hints; Bruce never did. I was surprised he was willing to be married. Only when he went into the desert did he change his outlook." Bruce met her at Le Bourget. The next day he took her to the Cabinet de Medailles in the Louvre, where he proposed. Elizabeth was looking at some coins when he said: "Do you want to keep the ring?"

Friends were thunderstruck at news of the engagement. "The idea of Bruce getting married seemed bananas," says Howard Hodgkin. James Dugdale spoke for many at Sotheby's: "Hearing that Bruce was to marry Elizabeth was stunning; rather like when Kennedy was assassinated, I remember where I was."

A part of him sought refuge. He worked in a world where homosexuality was not stigmatised, yet he came from a background that did not approve of it. He may have hoped that "homosexual behaviour is something you grow out of", and that he could follow the model of his parents' successful marriage. He aspired to a family life and a relationship that was public, comfortable and supportive and believed this would outweigh any sexual urges. It was his greatest luck to find Elizabeth; she, too, may have hoped that marriage and a family would change things. "I knew Bruce was ambidextrous. He was never obvious about it and it embarrassed him that he had this tendency, but he wasn't going to give in to it completely."

The were married on August

'He stuck out in any company, in a gay bar or a drawing room'

ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE



Robert Mapplethorpe: his work inspired Chatwin

Bruce's excursions with Donald Richards to New York coincided with a point at which the gay world became chic: universal, glamorous, freewheeling and not so underground. On February 17, 1979, they went to see Robert Mapplethorpe.

Bruce was photographed on one of his visits to Mapplethorpe's studio loft on Bond Street. In 1983, he repaid the compliment with an introduction to *Body and Eyes*, Mapplethorpe's book of portraits of the female bodybuilder Lisa Lyon. The novelist Edmund White judges Bruce's introduction as "the best essay ever written on Mapplethorpe", but it reveals no less of its author. In 1974, Bruce had held up Cartier-Bresson as one of the models for *In Patagonia*. He was now evolving a new aesthetic for his second book: the exotic and sadistic history of a slave-trader. He found one aspect of it on the walls of Mapplethorpe's studio.

Bruce observed "a black bedroom behind a white wire-netting cage and, ranged around, the paraphernalia of an irreverent perversity: a scorpion in a case, a bronze of Mephistopheles and a smaller bronze of the Devil with his toasting fork". Here Mapplethorpe took his haunting portraits of men, women and a series of "sex pictures" that froze the intimate activities of the so-called "leather scene".

Chatwin is insightful of Mapplethorpe's style: "His vision is cold and sharp. He is fascinated by the satanic and confronts his night-biased world with the elegant and melancholic stance of the dandy. His eye for a face is the eye of a novelist in search of a character; his eye for a body that of a classical sculptor in search of an 'ideal'. His sitters — celebrities or pick-ups, beautiful girls or black friends — seem mesmerised not by the lens but by his presence and transported into a dreamworld."

The photographer said: "I really don't know how I take these pictures," but Bruce, who lit his prose in the same way, understood Mapplethorpe's techniques. Mapplethorpe's effect was achieved not by contact but by detachment, seeing with the clarity of first impressions, avoiding intimacy. "Except for a few close friends, Robert rarely took pictures of the same sitter twice."

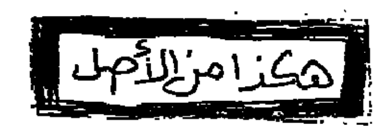
That Mapplethorpe should have photographed him is a sign of Bruce's effect, also of their complicity. "I, too, was photographed by Robert," says Peter Adam, who was one of Bruce's lovers during this period. "But Bruce was one of the few people Robert took with his clothes on. To use Mapplethorpe as a society photographer does seem to be a little bit far-fetched."

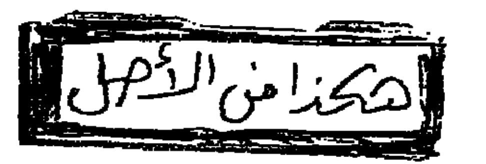
Possibly this was the occasion when Mapplethorpe suggested to Bruce he might like to meet his brilliant friend, Edmund White. Mapplethorpe telephoned White, who lived near by. Bruce walked around, rang the bell. White wrote down what happened: "Maybe it was the excitement of druggy, sexy New York before Aids, or of the Mapplethorpe connection but seconds after he'd come into my apartment we started fooling around with each other."

Many of Bruce's partners at this period had the attributes of White: good-looking, interesting and famous. Even if Bruce was not as guilt-free as White or Nureyev, he knew how to pick. He was drawn to the liberation these artistic, highly intelligent people celebrated. Bruce left so many crossed trails, it is hard to gauge how much he participated in, or enjoyed, Mapplethorpe's world. The art historian John Richardson could not picture him as a wholehearted participant. "I used to go a lot to baths in the Village: the Eagle's Nest, Spike, The Ramrod. I was the old hand. I never saw Bruce in any. I didn't have the feeling he was an *habitué*."

Richardson once took Bruce to a leather bar for blacks. "He was too grand for them. It's no good being sort of la-di-dah. He stuck out in any company, whether in a gay bar or drawing room by playing the star."

Bruce was as unforthcoming with Richardson as with everyone else about his sex life. "I never felt he was nearly as much a cruiser or sexually obsessed person as most of my gang. But I think Bruce had a lot to hide. I think he liked danger. I always assumed he liked being violated in some way and preferably by brigands, gypsies, South American cowboys. It was part of his nomad pattern, to go off into the desert and get raped by Afghan brigands."





BRUCE CHATWIN: A STORYTELLER'S LIFE

but he was never obvious about it

'He wasn't very nice to Elizabeth. I've seldom met a human being who exudes so much sex appeal with so comparatively little niceness. What does this boy want?'


SALLY SOAMES

Unfaithful friend: despite his infidelities, when asked "Who is your best friend?", Chatwin replied: "I guess it's Elizabeth"

21, 1965, in the chapel of Sweet Briar Farm.

With marriage, a pattern emerged that would define Bruce's writing life: boundless enthusiasm dwindling into depression and inertia. He struggled to write his first book, which he wanted to call *The Nomadic Alternative*, for three years. One reason his book took so long was his distractibility; *The Nomadic Alternative* was only one of several projects he plotted at this time.

On March 21 Elizabeth wrote to her mother that Bruce's nomad project was on hold. "He has got to know the cast of the English production of *Hair*, and one night last week was at a party talking to a theatrical agent who said they were looking for ideas for a really different, way-out musical, so Bruce sits down at the typewriter last week and writes a scenario for a musical on Akhenaten, involving the Mitannians, semi-nomadic people from Iraq, the Hittites and the Egyptians. Goodness knows if it will ever come off, but Bruce is thrilled."

The inspiration for his musical was a 19-year-old Jamaican-born actor from *Hair*. Peter Straker played Hud, the lead black boy. "I was carried in on a pole dressed in the US flag with no clothes on underneath. I'd slide off and sing 'I'm a coloured spade'. Bruce thought I had a marvellous voice."

Their paths crossed one day as Straker was heading to the Shaftesbury Theatre. "My God," yelled Bruce. "You're the image of Akhenaten." He dragged Straker to half the museums in London until he found a picture to back his theory. That night Bruce watched Straker's performance and the idea for a musical took shape. A lack of musical training was no obstacle. "In a moment of enthusiasm, or rather, infatuated by a member of the cast, I wrote a scenario for a musical one bright spring day," he wrote to James Ivory. "I'm a sucker for theatrical camp."

On Straker's free day they would lunch at Le Casserole in the Kings Road or Inigo Jones in Covent Garden. Straker found the relationship puzzling. "I don't know if we had an affair. My day-to-day life had nothing to do with Bruce."

The project fizzled out and with it the relationship. "His energy frightened me," says Straker. "I found him overpowering, larger than life. There came a point when I knew I was important to him and didn't want it. I laughed at him when he said he loved me."

One weekend Bruce invited Straker to Holwell Farm to meet Elizabeth. "I was shocked at their relationship," says Straker. "I asked him about Elizabeth: 'How can you go on like this?' He said she liked the country and didn't like the city and she knew that side of him." Elizabeth suspected about Straker but did not know the extent of Bruce's infidelities. In none of them did he let himself go. James Ivory, who visited in the autumn of 1971, says: "As I strolled with him in an upstairs hall, he told me he had given up homosexuality, that he didn't have those feelings any more." Even so, the tensions between Bruce and his wife mounted.

On November 3 James Lees-Milne was invited to Holwell for dinner. "[Bruce] was not very nice to Elizabeth, who cooked a delicious dinner; he was abrupt and discontented; whereas when he came to tea with me the day before he was all charm. I have seldom met a human being who exudes so much sex appeal with so comparatively little niceness. What does this boy want?"

Elizabeth's family had become accustomed to finding one or other partner away. Visitors noticed her reduced circumstances. She relied on a steady trickle of cheques from her mother to cover bills. "I'm so broke I can only just eat nowadays," she wrote. "Thank heavens B is away as there is one less to feed and he likes to have proper meals anyway." But she missed her husband: "Dear Max, well here I go again in hope one of these letters one day will reach you."

Elizabeth was unlike most wives. "Love alters not when it alteration finds," she would say. Beyond the reverence was a genuine entente that had given the couple their nickname, "the Chattys". Salman Rushdie says: "They were the only two people I know who could talk simultaneously, non-stop, for long periods of time about completely different subjects, while seemingly knowing exactly what the other was saying and not finding it a problem."

There was also their complicity. Jessie Wood and her husband Clem saw much of the Chatwins, who often stayed in their Paris flat. "Bruce would never have done anything that he did if he hadn't had this feeling for Elizabeth. I mean, can you imagine Bruce with anyone else?"

When he was 37 Bruce fell helplessly in love with Donald Richards, an Australian stockbroker ten years his junior, at a wedding in Oxfordshire in June 1977. Among the guests were the artist Keith Milow and a handsome man covered in hay. "We'd been rolling in the cornfield adjacent to the party," says Milow. He introduced Bruce to Donald: "Something clicked which I was not prepared for."

Teddy Millington-Drake, who entertained Bruce and Donald on Patmos, said their meeting was "the big break in Bruce's life . . . It was the first time he'd committed his life to a man." Where Bruce was an extrovert, Donald was reticent and, unlike Bruce, uninhibitedly gay. "He was a sexy homosexual who jumped into bed immediately," says Peter Adam.

"Bruce saw Donald as a challenge," says Milow, "wild, sexual and hard to keep up with." He was possessed of "unbelievable eyes with black edges to them", according to Elizabeth. Adam understood the chemistry: "Bruce quite liked tarty men and he justified them if they could also read Rilke and knew Kafka wasn't a deodorant."

Whatever Elizabeth suspected of her husband's activities, she did not let on. She was used to people falling in love with him, and had taught herself not to be threatened. "I always felt he was going to come back. There was no point in confronting him. He didn't like showdowns at all."

In Italy, Beatrice von Rezzori asked Bruce: "Who is your best friend?" He replied: "I guess it's Elizabeth." There still existed a physical bond. In 1979 James Fox arrived at Holwell on his "very quiet motorbike", and caught Bruce and Elizabeth kissing. "I stopped in front of the kitchen window and saw this long, touching embrace between the couple, which was surprising because I had never conceived of such tenderness between them."

Along with the tenderness went a hurtful neglect. "He never told people he was married, I was the guilty secret," says Elizabeth. His frustration could erupt in cruelty. James Fox recalls going with Bruce, Elizabeth and others to a lunch haunt. There was no table big enough: "Bruce tells her to go away, which shocks everyone." Meriel McCooey was standing on the corner: "I thought 'That's horrible'. Elizabeth went without a word. I couldn't understand why she didn't thump him."

● *Extracted from* Bruce Chatwin *by Nicholas Shakespeare, to be published by The Harvill Press on April 1 at £20.* Times *readers can buy it for £16 by calling The Times Bookshop, 0990-134459. Copyright Nicholas Shakespeare 1999*

TOMORROW

Sotheby's — and the rich collectors who wanted Chatwin 'body and soul'

How to end the great benefit fraud

Genetic testing would save us millions, says Frank Field

Last week the Government read the European Union the Riot Act on fraud. Now the spotlight moves closer to home. When, later this week, the Social Security Secretary, Alistair Darling, publishes the White Paper on social security fraud, MPs will want to know whether the building blocks are in place for the first-ever effective counter-fraud strategy. At least eight major initiatives are required.

A number involve securing the national insurance system. Each of us has a national insurance number, but there are millions of spare ones floating around the system, some of which are used fraudulently.

The first important task, therefore, is to set a five-year timetable to get rid of spare and bogus numbers. But at the rate the department has been working, it could take 200 years to achieve this simple objective.

Next, has the issuing of national insurance numbers been secured? In the ten weeks I had ministerial responsibility for fraud I found that there were no proper checks on the staff issuing numbers. While most staff are honest, the serious fraudsters are free to place their own people on the inside to issue counterfeit numbers.

The Government needs to back its tough talk with action to see that fraud is banished for good. The best way to ensure that a person is who they claim to be is by DNA testing. Instead of issuing NHS and child benefit numbers at birth, a single national insurance number could be issued, linked to a person's DNA.

> It is time to back up all the tough talk with action

This sample would then be used to prove identity whenever state benefits are claimed. Over time, this would give the national insurance system a security which it now so patently lacks. Banks already use DNA testing to protect their accounts, with no complaints from customers.

But how can proof of identity be best established in the meantime? Birth certificates, driving licences, and passports are currently used. Given the extent of counterfeiting these documents nobody knows which of them is the most secure. The truth is that no document is safe from counterfeiting unless it is linked to biometric information. So it is essential to determine which are the most and least reliable. Has the Government set in hand a regular sampling to find this out?

The Government also needs to work closely with other public bodies. This will prove harder than it sounds — for example, too many fraudulent claims for housing benefits by non-existent tenants have been aided and abetted by the Post Office.

When they move, some housing benefit claimants ask the Post Office to send their giro on to their new address, from where they will also be claiming another housing benefit. Four years ago the Social Security Select Committee suggested that the Post Office should stop forwarding giros, but only within the past few weeks has it agreed to put the needs of taxpayers above those of fraudulent claimants.

Similarly, it is now possible to use data-matching to prevent fraud. The balance of the argument when deciding if such a practice is permissible must be changed and the Data Protection Registrar must be directed to allow it if, on balance, it protects public funds.

The Government must also listen carefully to the public. During the last Parliament the select committee received evidence from a dentist on the extent of prescription fraud. It was revealed that many people knew that the Government had ceased to check the back of prescription forms to ensure that free medicine was going to those legally entitled to it. It has taken five years for a new, more secure system to be introduced. The Department of Health estimates it will now be saving £75 million a year.

Likewise, the Civil Service closed shop must be opened up to outside experts. When the welfare state was established at the turn of the century, individuals such as William Beveridge were brought in to combine their specialist knowledge with the more general skills of civil servants. Beveridge learnt quickly and rose to become a Permanent Secretary by 1919. A similar open-door approach must now be employed.

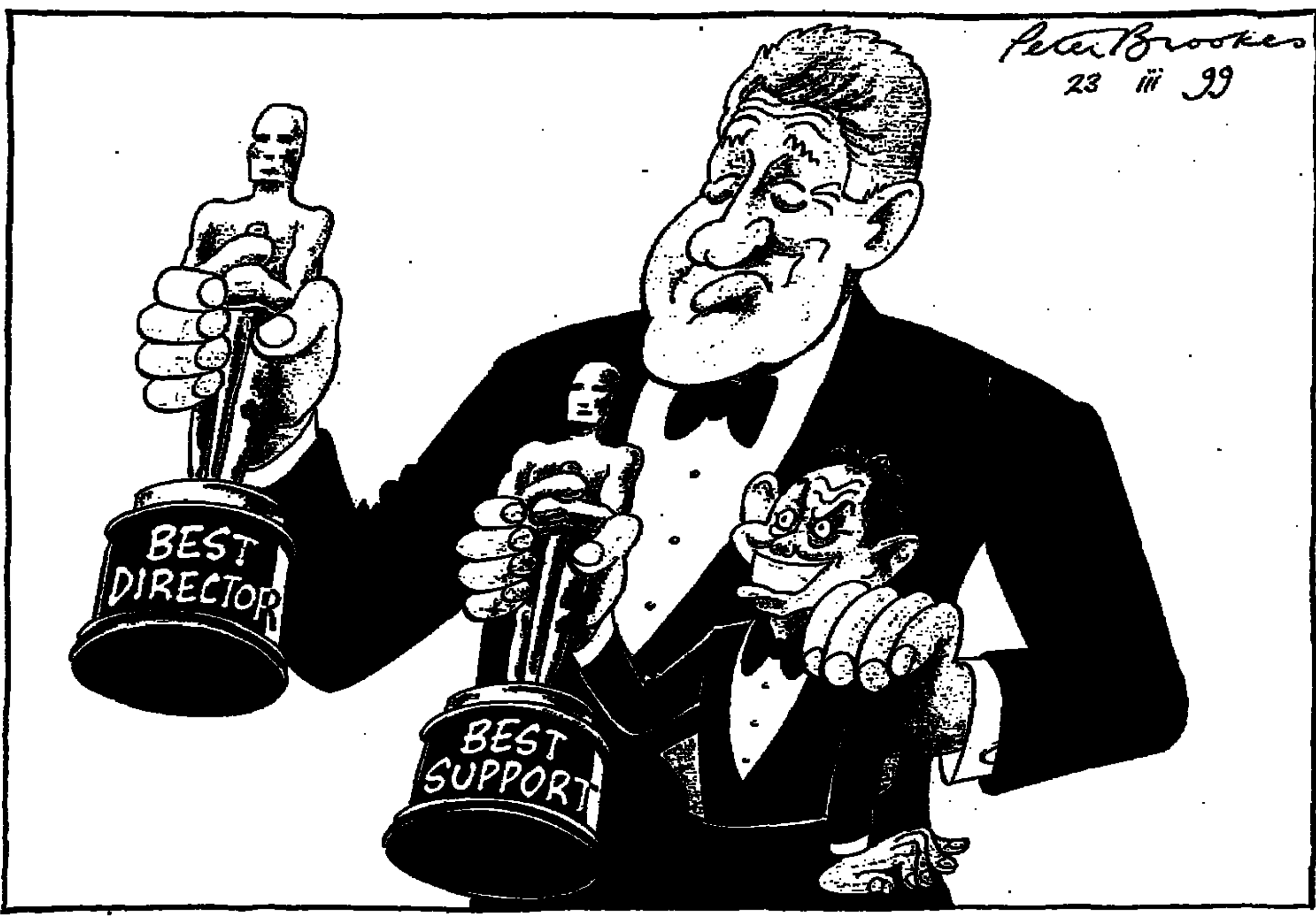
Last, the Social Security Secretary must announce how the Government is going to measure fraud in future. The current variety of measurements must be replaced by a single yardstick, which would reflect the long-established minimum legal test of whether a person has knowingly or recklessly gained funds to which they are not entitled. Future governments would then be able to use this as a basis to report progress on their successes in safeguarding taxpayers' money.

Public confidence would be further boosted if fraud savings were linked to specific welfare reforms. The Chancellor's Welfare to Work initiative shows that a third of all claimants leave the unemployment rolls when they have to take on full-time options in the scheme. The vast majority of this group already have a job while claiming benefit.

While they show many Welfare to Work claimants successfully getting a job, the figures also tell of a sizeable group who do everything in their power to get work, but fail. It would be popular to link some of the huge savings on fraud already being achieved by Welfare to Work to helping the most vulnerable further by developing stage two of the Government's New Deal. It would also, in the longer run, lead to real reductions in the social security bill as more and more of these vulnerable claimants are successfully helped into work.

The author was formerly Minister for Welfare Reform

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THE ANNUAL BALKANS CRISIS AWARDS...

We're still a class act

Schools are our gateway to glory — so why not forget this dismal politicking?

Is there anything more lowering to the spirits than a British education headline? Key words cause the heart to plummet and the hand to jerk back from the newspaper: *School, Selection, Standards, Blunkett, Teachers, Woodhead.* God help us.

You know immediately what will be underneath that baleful black print: either a doom-laden survey or a government initiative (from somewhere on a spectrum ranging from useful to barking mad) being summarily rejected by assorted general secretaries. Beyond the actual headline will be long, slimy trails of dismal class-ridden argument and anecdotes about idle teachers, unpleasant inspectors, and the unrecognised brilliance of the writer's own children. Once a week at least in all media we are forced to walk this penitential route, as if "education" were a debilitating plague rather than a gateway to glory.

It horrifies me that I feel this way. I am a parent and an aunt and a groupie who enjoys schools and teachers. What could be more exciting than to show the world to the new generation, and help children towards mastery and exploration? The sense that comes off the best schools — from mullioned cloister to dilapidated Portakabin and from a noisy Year Ten debate on General Haig — is of glee. Any contact with actual education brings a gale of fresh air, the very antithesis of the dour, sour nitpicking of education politics.

Obviously the two halves of the process need one another. If the centre is mean with money and misguidedly bossy, the school will suffer however good the staff are.

And many are: my current favourite is the northern geography teacher who wrote to me cheekily asking whether, as a yachtie, I happened to know of anyone who might lend him a handheld GPS satellite navigator for a field trip. I was so charmed that I posted him my own, and got it back months later with a sheaf of impressive project-work. Such individual enthusiasm makes a school fly, and Government's role is just to ensure the plane's basic soundness and general route. Prescriptive central control drains the life out of the extremities: note the case of Ruth Miskin, the Head of Kobi Nazrul School in London. Her literacy programme is famously successful but (despite being the partner of the Chief Inspector of Schools) she is regularly outspoken about the fact that she doesn't bother to follow the Government's literacy-hour rules, as contained in the deadweight mini-suitcase issued to all primary schools.

So let a thousand flowers bloom, each with its own brave curl of petal. Ministers should weed out the few noxious and half-dead plants and let the rest grow tall.

Asking Government to concentrate on real problems and leave successful schools alone is a not uncommon plea; but I would add a second, less common. It is that we should stop arguing over the remaining grammars, and that, moreover, the ancient, covert civil war between state and independent schools should end. No more class hatred, malicious envy and guilt. Children are children, teaching *is* teaching: since Britain has accidentally grown a lopsided system of comprehensives, grammars, church schools, technology colleges and independents, both day and boarding, we should use that dotty diversity to everyone's advantage. Of course in an ideal world there would be an excellent free school at the bottom of everyone's street; but we do not live in an ideal world. We live in quirky, bloody-minded Britain. So let all schools enthusiastically share both resources and experience.

Libby Purves

The Government has made tentative movements to encourage this, but meets resistance. State heads get chippy and say that private schools have nothing to teach *them* about (I have heard this expression) "real kids". Independent heads roll their eyes up foxily and cite their duty to fee-paying parents and the school's "very special ethos". But children are children, learning is learning. The barriers must come down.

The futility of the stand-off was dramatised last week after the inquest on poor Nicholas Taylor, who died in the course of a "fainting game" which, it transpired, was a regular Etonian way of filling in the time between supper and prayers. Instead of sensible discussion about teenage boys in general, this caused an outbreak of attacks on boarding schools. They ranged in tone from ChildLine's dark hints at "a culture of risky behaviour" caused when children "don't have homes to go to in the evening", to a magnificent, full-blooded rant from A.A. Gill: "A solitary corner of hell . . . pillow-muffled sobs . . . darker, steamier, underground secret place . . . lost, dysfunctional, gauche little homunculi . . ."

Most of the attacks artfully blurred the ages of the children in question, confusing the genuinely controversial issue of prep boarding at teddy-bear age with the majority of teenage boarders. Nearly all of them dwelt on the high fees parents pay to these "snobbish, expensive, family-rending, tear and semen-stained places" (Gill again). Yet throughout history teenagers have trained or worked away from home, and today plenty of perfectly normal children do it without demur or "dysfunction". It may be because they live in a remote area, or have Service parents, or an intense musical or sporting interest, or merely hate commuting and prefer the short, busy terms and long idle holidays of the boarding year. They phone home daily, come home frequently, and learn the elements of self-government. Some hate it and should be brought home; but then some day-pupils are miserable and should be moved.

The point is that even boarding schools — a minority within a minority — could actually share valuable experience of how children mature and learn and can govern themselves. A handful, such as Royal Hospital School where my own children go, even have a startlingly wide social and intellectual mix due to ancient charitable provision (in this case, several centuries' worth of funds eccentrically accruing to Greenwich Hospital, including the wealth of the pirate Captain Kidd and a 1920 shipowner's bequest). So it provides means-tested fees for children of merchant and RN sailors, and brings in hundreds of families who otherwise would not consider a private, let alone boarding, school. This is a rarity; but here is a busy, open-hearted school which has evolved interesting ways of managing a mixed-ability co-ed intake and uniting 660 socially diverse children. Such schools deserve a voice in the national discussion on what education should be.

But, this being Britain, each type of school is expected to remain sealed off and defensive. Any public school housemaster or mistress, after years of 24-hour vigilance, might have a really interesting line on adolescent development — but who would be so politically incorrect as to be caught listening? Every now and then a television producer has a bit of fun by parachuting a dazed Benenden headmistress into a comp, or sending some Merseysiders to Rugby, but their agenda is mischief not kinship. It is time to come out of the trenches, shake hands, swap teachers and materials and methods and generally de-Balkanise.

United, the profession would be better armed against government fads. When state teachers argue over lower class sizes or facilities they are dismissed as inefficient wastrels. Imagine the extra leverage if from time to time the heads of famous public schools sided with these colleagues, just as free Western writers campaign for their peers living under dictatorships.

It might lead to better funding for state schools and lower fees for independents. It is, after all, axiomatic that whenever a private school head does talk to a comprehensive colleague, what the toff head really, really wants to know is how the hell — on the money per-capita and the unselected pupils — the state schools do as well as they do.

comment@the-times.co.uk

Cranborne's Bill will meet in the Commons not an assembly which holds its leaders to account, but a House in danger of emasculation

Sheila Lawlor

Now that the quest to find the century's defining books, films and paintings has run, we shall soon be searching for its defining statements. These will as often as not be bound up with Parliament: from the announcement that Britain was at war, to Margaret Thatcher's "No, no, no" to the demands of Jacques Delors.

Big Ben is not just for tourists, or for children on half-term treats. Parliamentary government is no abstract matter. It is government by public assembly, which elects its leaders on behalf of the people, hears them out, and if needs be, pulls them down again.

Despite this tradition, parliamentary authority has all but capitulated in face of the tyranny of the executive and its bureaucracies. Legislation is too often rushed through, with Parliament having no say. Furthermore, local government spending, most of it funded by the taxpayer, is not considered by Parliament. All sorts of secondary measures, attached to the main legislation, are not examined and cannot be amended, and although in theory Parliament can reject them, by convention it does not. In addition, Parliament has been further eroded by the way in which EU directives are used by departments to slip in their own pet schemes, thus avoiding discussion and scrutiny.

How should Parliament regain its authority and deal directly with three central problems: the way in which ministerial measures are turned into law; the way in which other bodies usurp the powers of Parliament; and the way in which government and Parliament work?

First it should see that new Bills are thought through, consulted on, published in draft and considered under the Audit Act before being proceeded with. At the same time it should ensure that all the secondary measures — the "statutory instruments" so beloved of the great bureaucracies which at present are nodded through — should be subject to proper scrutiny and amendment.

Secondly, every Bill should have its health warning on whether it erodes parliamentary responsibility. Not only would Bills have to be certified so that Parliament would know whether they changed the constitutional balance. Parliament would also be told which of them undermined or took away some of its responsibilities.

Ministers would have to come to Parliament with the EU directives, consult representative bodies, and publish a report on which there would be a vote in both Houses. This would help to end the culture of ministers doing deals with their EU cronies. Parliament would also need to demand that it be shown clearly what aspects of any new EU measure are required under existing legislation, and what is the icing on the cake — extra regulations added at the whim of British officialdom. Local government would have to submit its expenditure to Parliament.

Finally, Parliament would end the promiscuity of government in awarding its favours to its own, or turning a blind eye to its size and cost. Public appointments would be submitted to proper scrutiny. The great and the good would find that they had another master to answer to, Parliament and its electorate. Administrative effectiveness and efficiency of government would be subject to review. Most important, the number of MPs and the number of ministers would be reduced. The power and freedom of individual MPs would be increased by their belonging to a smaller group. The power of government would be reduced by making it smaller.

Wonderful, many people might think. But are not these proposals fantasy? Not quite. They are all part of a Private Member's Bill introduced by Viscount Cranborne in the House of Lords. Although its welcome in the Lords will be warm, the chances of its becoming law will depend on the Government. For though the Bill's journey to the Commons may be swift, it will meet there not an assembly which holds its leaders to account, but a House in danger of emasculation by government — and, as the Victorians knew well, the most potentially dangerous of all sinister interests is that of the executive because it is the most powerful.

Might the Government, nonetheless, let Parliament stand up for itself? There is nothing in the main lines of Viscount Cranborne's Bill which any committed parliamentarian should hesitate to welcome. And, given the posturing over the failures in Europe in the absence of a British model, which minister, even in the present administration, would claim to be anything other than a committed parliamentarian?

Sheila Lawlor is director of the think-tank Politeia

comment@the-times.co.uk

THE TIMES DIARY

Shock tactic

IF YOU find the shocking new NSPCC adverts effective, here's why: Peter Mandelson has been heavily involved. The rehabilitation of the former Trade and Industry Secretary continues, after his recent work for the VSO. The master messenger has attended numerous meetings and helped to persuade Tony Blair to launch the campaign with the Duke of York yesterday.

The ads, to be promoted by Baby Spice, below left, contain harrowing cries of children. Peter, who, I hear, has turned down several lucrative business offers, has spent much (unpaid) time on this. As well as doing some good, it might even help his campaign to get back into the Cabinet one day.





A PUNGENT smell of curry has prompted Tiggy Legge-Bourke to move house. The "royal assistant", wilting after wafts from The Indian Diner, an exotic food emporium in Battersea, is moving a few streets away where she is having a new pad knocked up.

■ PLATOONS of Filipinos are compiling a history of the Scottish language. The *Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue*, a 6,800-page affair, is being bashed out by toilers in Manila. The multi-volume history has gestated for 60 years (Robert Maxwell took it on, but his dip thwarted plans).

Editors hope the Filipinos — sent handwritten scribbles by post — will avoid mistakes with older words, as "it is all foreign to them" (handily, their wages are half those of local tappers). "I could give you 50 to 100 Scottish companies who would have loved to bid for this work," moans a business type.

LORD HURD of WESTWELL has finally discovered what his aides were up to when they blew round the globe. In a foreword to Time to Kill Sparrows, *an anthology of poems by diplomats, the former Foreign Secretary admits: "As they gazed out of the aircraft, scribbled at meetings where there was no need, or walked in solitude up the Ambassador's lawn, they were writing poetry."*

■ AS Lord Sainsbury of Turville recovers from the GM food saga, he is hardly sending round supermarket hampers of gratitude to his DTI boss Stephen Byers. "Stephen is so ambitious he failed to stick his neck out for his colleague," I hear. Still, as Byers raids his piggy-bank to bribe BMW to stay here, Sainsbury can comfort himself with the thought that his personal wealth of £3.3 billion is exactly the same as the DTI's entire budget.



DAN FRANKLIN, editorial director at Cape, has a tough trip ahead. He is to mind Howard Marks and Irvine Welsh during a publishing bash in Amsterdam.

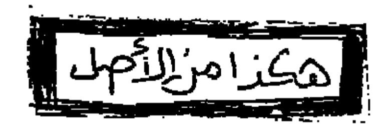
■ THE Serjeant at Arms was mistaken when he persuaded the new Speaker's Chaplain to give up his dresser. Canon Peter Jennings persuaded Robert Wright to dispense with one of the perks of the job after suggesting it was a peculiarity of his predecessor.

But the Speaker's Chaplain has had a dresser since time immemorial. Importantly, the flunkey helps the cleric with his black cassock, cape and pointy hat before swishing towards the chamber with our dear Speaker.

The Serjeant has retained his own dresser. Orders about how his sword should be laid out are pinned up at Westminster.

SURFING the Tory Euro website, Denis MacShane, europhile Labour MP, was pleasantly surprised: "I was expecting barbed wire and Union Jacks but it was more europhile that Labour's."

JASPER GERARD



CLASS POLITICS

An imaginative initiative for inner-city education

Two months ago Tony Blair spoke of a Britain with an ever more middle-class electorate. Those responsible for public relations within Downing Street have clearly taken that message to heart. Great efforts have been made to portray the series of initiatives launched by Mr Blair and Mr Blunkett yesterday as a carefully crafted strategy designed to lure the middle classes back to inner-city comprehensives. In truth, the six areas at the heart of this £350 million programme contain relatively few such affluent parents. For all the considerable publicity offered to those measures that are deliberately aimed at stretching the top 10 per cent of pupils, rather more of the money will be spent on new and intensive efforts to help the least able.

With the exception of a few enclaves, such as Islington, where many middle-class parents are faced with a choice between uninspiring local state schools, it will be the poor but able who benefit the most from the Government's efforts. They will receive additional teaching within their own schools and the opportunity to use facilities at specialist and beacon schools in their area. Mr Blunkett intends to redeploy old and new resources in a manner that offers the most to those whose raw talent should be enough to steer them towards university but who, at the moment, all too often do not have the chance to develop their potential.

This is an admirable objective even if the political salesmanship that has accompanied it has been somewhat misleading. The sum of money involved is substantial. The accompanying shift in philosophy will be at least as important. Mr Blair has not banished mixed ability teaching but he is marginalising it. This package represents a political victory for the meritocrats within the Downing Street policy unit over their more egalitarian colleagues at the Department for Education and Employment.

It also crystallises the emerging "Blair doctrine" on education policy. This might be described as the three S's — setting, specialisation and standards. The single most significant aspect of this tripod may prove to be the Prime Minister's determination that more schools should develop distinctive academic interests, be it languages, science or technology, and attract parents and students on this basis. That drive is to be supported by an extension of beacon schools which serve as broader centres of excellence. The development or not of these institutions will be the single most important factor in determining whether theory translates into practice.

The Prime Minister predicted yesterday that he would be attacked from one side by those for whom grammar schools remain sacrosanct and by another for whom the slightest hint of selection within comprehensives is akin to ideological treason. He thus implied that in this, as so many other respects, he represents a reasonable "Third Way" between the hotheads. The analogy is not completely accurate. The remaining 160 grammar schools represent no threat to Mr Blair's ambitions. Their abolition would do nothing to help, and may eventually harm, the very children on whom the Prime Minister would rightly wish to focus his considerable energies.

Mr Blair's real challenge lies with those who will now charge that his blueprint is "divisive" and that it undermines the core principles upon which comprehensive education should be structured. This claim is of very limited credibility but enormous emotional power within his own party and the teaching profession. The Prime Minister has put forward a bold and coherent plan and made available a more than adequate amount of money. It remains to be seen whether schools, and especially the local education authorities concerned, will make the most of this opportunity.

PRIMAKOV RULES

Still a chance to lever Russia back on to the reform road

When Yevgeni Primakov arrives in Washington to meet Vice-President Al Gore and the IMF, one immediate subject of conversation is likely to be Kosovo. But the real issue will be the very future of Russia's reform programme and what sort of country it will be in the post-Yeltsin age.

To many international bankers, Mr Primakov is a Lubyanka-trained Oliver who ought surely not dare to ask for more after last August's default. The Prime Minister badly needs to convince his hosts that new aid will not follow past loans into overseas personal bank accounts.

Whether or not he intends to succeed President Yeltsin in elections next year, Mr Primakov rules in Russia today. In a murky Kremlin this much stands clear; nothing else does, save the problems of communism's crisis-ridden afterlife.

Russia remains too vital to pretend that its agony does not matter. The spectacle of its staggering Government, irresolute but wilful on the precipice, makes people long for a more stable alternative. It is becoming tempting to specify that alternative in the name of an authoritarian Mr Primakov.

The Primakov label remains a tag on a mystery package. Some Russians hail Mr Primakov as a Soviet Cincinnatus, summoned to save the nation from chaos. Others ask: is former spymaster Primakov a walking ghost whom eight years of reform have not laid? His shadowy KGB background, his placing of senior ex-colleagues to oversee supposedly private media companies, his putting to rout of his rival Boris Berezovsky might be visible signs of an ominous political rot.

Mr Yeltsin's decay has allowed Mr Primakov to put in his bid at the Kremlin's auction of power. It was Mr Primakov who benefited when the Moscow prosecutor Yuri Skuratov revealed the disappearance of some $50billion in reserves from Russia's central bank. Although the prosecutor was rewarded with embarrasssing exposure of his sex life on television, Mr Primakov's prize was the sole capacity to manipulate charges of corruption for political ends. To attract Communist support it is whispered that a Primakov presidential campaign will be stoked by high-profile trials of vulnerable Yeltsin era ministers and millionaires.

Mr Primakov has contrived over seven months as Prime Minister to give little indication about how he intends to confront Russia's crisis. So far he has been lucky: the abyss was skirted this winter. Russia needs to escape immobility not to make immobility its national doctrine again. If new money is to be given, Mr Primakov must commit himself to carrying out, within 90 days, conditions agreed in previous IMF deals. As a reformer Mr Primakov would be more convincing if he sacked Viktor Geraschenko, arguably the worst central bank governor ever to preside in a major modern country.

If a deal is struck, there may be some benefit to the West in the powers that Mr Primakov has amassed: if Russia's Prime Minister gives his word, he may at least have the power to keep it. In Mr Primakov's Kremlin, two, perhaps three, schools of doctors (and undertakers carrying stethoscopes) contend over Russia's sickbed. Some would embalm; some would pursue restoration to health; some want only a partial recovery to preserve their privileges. The IMF loan may be one of the West's last levers to boost Mr Primakov into the recovery camp.

BEYOND PATAGONIA

A chance to glimpse the life of a man of myth

In 1977, when *In Patagonia* appeared under the little known name of Bruce Chatwin, travel writing was already an art at which the British seemed to excel: from Smollett's *Travels in France and Italy* to Lawrence's *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* and Apsley Cherry-Garrard's *The Worst Journey in the World* it was the literary obverse of the soldier's tale. Yet Chatwin's book became one of the most admired, imitated and collected volumes of our age. The author's sharp, particular, eye changed the genre's shape, made the journey itself a prism through which the light of the writer's language could be seen.

The book's 97 sections contained his own recollections, tales from other travellers and history, blended in a way that still stands as unique. Does it matter if the famous telegram — "Gone to Patagonia" — never actually existed? Does it matter if Bruce Chatwin, who died ten years ago and wrote, in his short life, just five books, lost his life not to a rare oriental disease, as he claimed, but to Aids instead? It was Chatwin's strength, not his weakness, that he was a fabulist, unable to untangle the strands of his glittering life, whose story we begin in *The Times* today, from the threads of his equally brilliant tales.

He had been a director of Sotheby's but craved a more adventurous life. Setting off for the southern tip of Argentina — ostensibly to track down the origins of a family heirloom, the pelt of a giant sloth — he returned not with skin but with the seeds of his first book. His rise at the auction house had been swift: while still only a porter, he had spotted a "Picasso" watercolour for a fake. He brought this eye, this gift of observation, to his travels.

In Patagonia and the four books that followed it are filled with images that hang in the memory, luminous as sunlit stained glass. His highly impressionist tale-telling spawned many less skilful imitators. But Chatwin cannot be blamed for that.

The story of his life is not easy to tell. A self-made man in every way, from his earliest days he spun tales that cast a spell. He was of no noble birth: yet many thought that he was. He was a married man, whose American wife, Elizabeth Chanler, was given a wedding ring 24 centuries old: but he continued to have many affairs with men. His blond, pale-eyed beauty was striking, his charm could be overpowering: and yet both kept him at distance from others. He was photographed by Robert Mapplethorpe; but, like very few of that artist's subjects, he kept his clothes on.

Nicholas Shakespeare's biography of Chatwin gives a revealing portrait of a writer who set a special mark on the literature of our time. Through the voices of those who recall him it brings his mystery alive: it ought also to bring back readers to the prose that made Chatwin's name.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Aims and effects of Nato airstrikes

From the Reverend Professor Emeritus Adrian Hastings

Sir, The mass destruction and murder under way in Kosovo are proof positive that Milosevic knows he is about to lose it and hopes to placate Serb nationalism with the scale of punishment inflicted on Kosovans while it is still possible to do so. Neither he nor anyone in Serbia wants a war with Nato or serious damage to Serbia itself but, in my view, they will continue to devastate Kosovo until five minutes before, or ten minutes after, Nato actually attacks.

This vast escalation in terrorism would not have happened without the recent Paris peace talks. It seems, in consequence, the direct responsibility of Nato and of Robin Cook, who largely controlled the course of negotiations.

The situation can only get worse until intervention actually begins to halt a crime greater even than that which Milosevic inflicted upon Bosnia.

Yours,
ADRIAN HASTINGS,
3 Hollin Hill House,
219 Oakwood Lane, Leeds LS8 2PE.
March 22.

From Mr S. J. Tennent

Sir, A specious wisdom seems to be becoming established over Kosovo. This is that airstrikes would achieve nothing and only play into the hands of Mr Milosevic.

I suggest this has to do with our civilised distaste for the gung-ho methods of our American leaders. It does not mean that airstrikes would not be just as rapidly effective as they were in Bosnia in September 1995.

Our humanity recoils from the reality that there are some rulers so powerful, dangerous and ruthless that we have to employ ruthless methods to protect the world from them.

The bleak truth, in my view, is that deadly force is needed, justified and likely to be effective if the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia persists in genocide or ethnic cleansing in Kosovo. Nato is probably adequately equipped to "write down" Mr Milosevic's arsenal of howitzers, tanks, armoured cars and planes and to discourage deeply the men manning them.

Yours sincerely,
S. J. TENNENT,
St Helens, High Street,
Gifford, Haddington EH41 4QU.
March 22.

From Dr Robert McGeehan

Sir, Your leading article on Kosovo (March 20) urges a massive rather than a token military operation if airstrikes on Yugoslavia are undertaken. Yet however repulsive the regime in Belgrade, it cannot be wise for Nato to launch an armed attack on a sovereign state without clear UN Security Council authorisation.

The credibility of the Atlantic alliance is on the line in Kosovo not because any vital Western interest is at stake, but because it has been put there by American and Nato officials seemingly more anxious to strike a moral pose than admit that a highly complex situation cannot be reduced to good guys v bad guys.

The likely effects of devastating bombing will not be peace but an extended conflict, a divided alliance, Russian hostility, Serbian defiance and profound regret in the future that the rules of international law have been so lightly dismissed.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT McGEEHAN,
Cooks Corner Farm,
Freeland, Oxfordshire OX8 8HW.
March 22.

European elections

From Mr Jonathan Sayeed, MP for Mid Bedfordshire (Conservative)

Sir, Mr Brian Shaw (letter, March 16) states that he will be spoiling his ballot paper for the European elections as he considers the closed-list system to be an affront to democracy.

Mr Shaw is right to feel affronted by a Labour Party decision that makes a Labour candidate's electoral future dependent on keeping the party bosses sweet, rather than the support of the electorate.

Instead of wasting his vote Mr Shaw should use it to support the Conservatives. They are the only major party that has consistently opposed Labour's undemocratic closed-list system.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN SAYEED,
House of Commons.
March 16.

From Mrs Margaret L. Willmer

Sir, I agree with Mr Brian Shaw. Opportunity must be given for us to register our protest by spoiling the voting paper.

I certainly do not intend to vote for a nameless politician — I shall mark my paper with a simple "who?" Perhaps we could start a "who?" campaign?

Yours faithfully,
M. L. WILLMER,
23 Lymington Road, NW6 1HZ.
margaret@willmer.demon.co.uk
March 16.

Loss of legal aid for bankrupts

From Professor Muir Hunter, QC

Sir, The serious effects of the Lord Chancellor's intention to substantially reduce civil legal aid, criticised by Mr Ashley Holmes and others (letter, March 15; see also letter, March 22) are bound to apply particularly in bankruptcy and insolvency cases.

Ever since legal aid began, it has been regularly granted, in meritorious cases, to debtors and bankrupts, and their partners; without it, an insolvent person may have little chance of defending his civic status and civil rights, and of avoiding the hazards and miseries of bankruptcy.

I have asked the Lord Chancellor's Department and the Legal Aid Board how they envisage that an insolvent litigant will henceforth be represented. Their view seems to be that he/she must enter into a conditional fee agreement with lawyers; for an insolvent litigant, that suggestion is surely unrealistic.

The refusal of legal aid must increasingly lead to litigants appearing in person. Mr Richard Southwell, QC, in his recent judgment in *Mehta v Royal Bank of Scotland* (Law Report, January 25) deplored the waste of court time and costs which had resulted from refusing legal aid to the *successful* plaintiff.

The denial of legal aid in such cases must also hamper the Government's policy, in its recent Competitiveness White Paper (leading article, December 17, 1998) of developing the "rescue culture"; how can the deserving insolvent be rescued, with no funding for lawyers?

Does not the Human Rights Act oblige our society to provide the citizen with lawyers to defend his status and rights?

Yours faithfully,
MUIR HUNTER
(Visiting Professor of Insolvency Law, Bournemouth University),
3/4 South Square,
Gray's Inn, WC1R 5HP.
March 22.

From Mr Christopher Frazer

Sir, Clause 1 of the new Civil Procedure Rules states that their "overriding objective" is "dealing with a case justly", which includes "ensuring that the parties are on an equal footing" — precisely what the Lord Chancellor's Department sees as a "gimmick" in the Access to Justice Bill.

Are we now to expect that "overriding objective" to be deleted in the first revision of the rules?

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER FRAZER,
2 Harcourt Buildings,
Temple, EC4Y 9DB.
March 22.

Change in hallmarks

From the Deputy Chairman of the British Jewellers' Association

Sir, My sympathy lies with Professor Declan Anderson (letter, March 20) who comments that the UK seems to be ahead of its partners in applying European law.

There has been no European legislation on hallmarking, but the European Court of Justice has ruled that EU states with independent testing bodies like our Assay Offices should recognise each others' marks. Our amended law has been introduced but there is no definitive list of which countries' systems provide a guarantee equivalent to ours; there is no complete set of illustrations of their marks; it is not certain which finenesses may be put on the market.

Ridiculously, a British maker may not have certain finenesses hallmarked here for sale in his own domestic market which an overseas supplier can sell here, and the DTI has not established if other European countries have similarly amended their law to recognise British hallmarks.

The alternative, the draft European Precious Metals Directive, offers a simple and uniform marking system with the voluntary retention of traditional marks like the lion passant. Importantly, it can also give the consumer a choice of independent testing or the maker's own fineness guarantee (a guarantee which applies to virtually all other consumer durables and which works just as well for the major jewellery manufacturing nations of Italy and Germany).

Yet the British Government is choosing instead an unworkable and unenforceable compromise which denigrates the traditional system and frustrates those who seek progress.

Yours faithfully,
LAWRENCE BREWER,
Deputy Chairman,
British Jewellers' Association,
10 Vyse Street, Birmingham B18 6LT.
March 21.

Extra tuition

From Mr Ken Gilbert

Sir, The news that the Government is to provide extra tuition for the 5 to 10 per cent of high-flyers in inner-city schools (report, March 22) suggests to me that this tuition could best be supplied in separate institutions which could be called, I suppose, grammar schools.

I await with interest what the Government proposes for the 10 per cent of children at the bottom end of the attainment scale. Work at 14 perhaps?

Yours faithfully,
KEN GILBERT,
26 Gallows Hill, Kings Langley,
Hertfordshire WD4 8LU.
March 22.

US and Ireland

From Mr Alan Turner

Sir, At the St Patrick's Day parade here in San Francisco on March 14, Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, headed a parade which included two large groups, one calling for the disbandment of the RUC, and the other for the withdrawal of the Army ("The British Army — the true terrorists in Ireland") and remembering the hunger strikers.

Am I out of touch with what is going on over there?

Yours faithfully,
ALAN TURNER,
Apt 1005 Geary Courtyard,
Geary Street,
San Francisco, CA 94102.
March 16.

Worth a drink?

From Mr Simon Perrin

Sir, Many public houses in England were granted a licence extension until midnight last night in order to celebrate St Patrick's Day.

However, my local hostelry has been refused an extension on April 23, apparently on the grounds that the event is not of sufficient national importance. What have our magistrates got against St George?

Yours, very confused,
SIMON PERRIN,
5 Rachel's Court,
Cemetery Road, Ipswich IP4 2JB.
simon_perrin@talk21.com
March 18.

From Mr Steve Wedd

Sir, Given the apparent success of the Guinness marketing effort for St Patrick's Day, will the English Tourist Board be pushing St George's Day this year; and, if so, with which liquid product?

Yours faithfully,
STEVE WEDD,
25 Old Steine, Brighton BN1 1EL.
steve@wedd-daniel.uk.com
March 18.

Price comparisons

From Mr Patrick Duffy

Sir, It was good to hear the Chancellor announce the new competition policy in the Budget (report, March 10), which I hope will finally do something to get United Kingdom prices more in line with those on the Continent and in the United States.

However, surely it is now time that the Government led by example and took some of its own medicine. For example, the average sales tax in the US is 6 to 8 per cent whereas VAT in the UK is 17.5 per cent; tax on petrol in the UK is about 58 pence per litre but only the equivalent of about 6 pence in the US; and Americans, overall, pay less income tax.

I would like to know, in particular, where all the UK petrol and diesel tax goes. It certainly is not on public transport or it would be the best in the world — and free.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK DUFFY,
Hudson Clough Farm,
Todmorden,
West Yorkshire OL14 8SA.
patrick@pda-consulting.com
March 11.

From Mr Peter Toogood

Sir, May I provide two examples of price differences between the UK and the US that I have found?

A US brand of "whitening" toothpaste is on sale in Horsham for £7.95. The same (standard) size in the US cost me the equivalent of £1.22. (Has the Chancellor introduced a toothpaste tax and not told anyone?)

A spectacle frame, made in Japan, cost me £170 in Horsham. I now find it can be ordered from the US on the Internet for £70 including postage.

Let's hope that Internet e-commerce puts an end to this blatant overcharging.

Yours sincerely,
PETER TOOGOOD,
11 Edinburgh Close,
Southwater, Horsham RH13 7XB.
zpat@hotmail.com
March 12.

From Mr Ed Robinson

Sir, It is good to note that the Government is to tackle traders who overcharge for goods here compared with prices abroad.

While they are at it could they also check to see if we are overtaxed as well?

Yours faithfully,
E. G. ROBINSON,
7 High Warden, Hexham,
Northumberland NE46 4SR.
March 11.

Letters to the Editor for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046 — or by e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Hollywood films rewrite the past

From Mr Ian Curteis, President of the Writers' Guild of Great Britain

Sir, What a relief that Hollywood has again corrected history, this time marked by the Oscars awarded to *Saving Private Ryan*, a splendid film demonstrating unequivocally that the crucial British contribution to the tragic invasion of Omaha Beach on D-Day was a complete myth. Thank goodness for intellectual rigour.

This is shortly to be followed by another great cinema epic, showing that the Enigma code machine — one of the two main factors that enabled us to survive Hitler's war — was not in fact captured from a U-boat in a remarkable incident led by Captain Baker-Cresswell and his Royal Navy team, as we have mistakenly believed all these years, but by an all-American crew. No matter that the capture took place in May 1941, months before America entered the war; the film triumphantly overcomes all such small-minded pedantry.

Not too far off, I feel sure, is the remake of *The Battle of Britain*, which will show the extraordinary bravery of the Americans in sweeping the Luftwaffe from our skies. It will no doubt rightly give prominence to Winston Churchill's great speech in praise of America, delivered to the Little-Mowbray-under-the-Hill Home Guard, a body of men in their nineties and clearly in the last stages of decrepitude, a speech curiously little reported at the time.

We should dismiss as hopelessly fuddy-duddy the superstition that most young people nowadays learn their history from film and television, not from books, and it is upon their understanding of what has gone before that their own decisions, both personal and public, will be based.

Not to be outdone, the Writers' Guild of Great Britain is shortly to commence production of a multi-million-pound epic retelling the story of just how ingeniously the British got the first man on the Moon. We shall naturally invite Neil Armstrong to the premiere. He will surely understand that, just because we will state clearly, "This is a True Life Story", we don't of course mean it actually *happened*.

Yours truly,
IAN CURTEIS,
President,
The Writers' Guild of Great Britain,
430 Edgware Road, W2 1EH.
March 22.

Lost causes

From Mr Robert Elphick

Sir, In supporting Elia Kazan's actions before the US Un-American Activities Committee in the early Fifties, William Rees-Mogg (article, March 22) makes a pertinent point about the continuing refusal of other fellow-travellers to acknowledge, as he did, the truth about Soviet communism. There is indeed a direct similarity between red and black fascism.

As for the leftist mantra about having to "break eggs to make omelettes", I have known a number of defectors in my time, all of whom were deeply disillusioned about their choice of systems. One of the more amusing, John Peet, the former Reuters correspondent who defected to the East Germans in 1950, quoted the phrase despairingly in the conclusion to his memoirs and asked: "But where is the omelette?"

He was still looking when he died in 1988 just before the Berlin Wall came down and provided the answer.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT ELPHICK,
90 Lupus Street, SW1V 3HH.
March 22.

Tango revival

From Mr Barney Miller

Sir, Professor Eric Moonman mentions (letter, March 19) "a shortage of tango teachers here".

He will be pleased to learn that the Academia Nacional del Tango in Argentina has encouraged the formation of the United Kingdom Academy of Tango (UKAT) in Britain; it was launched by President Menem during his visit in October.

There are about 20 tango schools in London.

Yours faithfully,
BARNEY MILLER
(Honorary Treasurer,
United Kingdom Academy of Tango),
19 Oxford Road, SW15 2LG.
March 19.

Sign of spring

From Mr Alan Sloan

Sir, Mr H. Sutherland Pilch reports an early sighting of a bare navel in the City on March 17 (letter, March 18).

Such sights are commonplace in Sheffield city centre on Friday nights throughout November to March.

Are the citizens of that place proudly claiming their home a land of perpetual summer? Or is there a hardy, non-migratory northern subspecies of navel?

Yours faithfully,
ALAN SLOAN,
Wallpitts,
Hartington, Buxton,
Derbyshire SK17 0AE.
alan@wallpitts.freeserve.co.uk
March 19.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 22: The Duke of Edinburgh this morning departed Gamba Airport, Gabon for London.

His Royal Highness this evening arrived RAF Northolt, London.

Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis was in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 22: The Prince of Wales, Chairman of the Trustees of the Royal Collection, this afternoon chaired a Trustees' meeting at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness, Patron of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Ethiopian Challenge 1999 Expedition, later attended a reception at St James's Palace State Apartments.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 22: The Duke of York attended the Public Launch of the NSPCC Appeal at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 22: The Princess Royal, Patron, The Butler Trust, this morning gave an address and presented the certificates at the Annual Awards Ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

Her Royal Highness, this afternoon, officially opened Hill Homes' new nursing home, Bridgeside Lodge, in Wharf Road, Islington, London N1.

The Princess Royal, Patron, Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, this evening attended the launch of the Gerald Durrell Biography at HarperCollins, 77-85 Fulham Palace Road, Hammersmith, London W6.

Birthdays today

Princess Eugenie of York is nine today.

Mr Michael Atherton, cricketer, 31; Mr Norman Bailey, baritone, 66; Sir Roger Bannister, former Master, Pembroke College, Oxford, and first man to run sub-four-minute mile, 70; Mr Bryan Bass, former Headmaster, City of London School, 65; Professor R.J. Bennett, FBA, geographer, 51; Professor Francis Berry, poet and Shakespearean scholar, 84; Mr Barry Cryer, comedian and writer, 64; Professor Michael Gleeson, otolaryngologist, 51; Mr Peter Godfrey, former senior partner, Ernst & Whinney, 75; the Rev Dr Peter Graves, superintendent minister, Westminster Central Hall, 56; Professor Kenneth J. Gregory, former Warden, Goldsmiths College, 61; Ms Lis Howell, former director of programmes, GMTV, 48; Sir Geoffrey Leigh, company chairman, 66; Sir David McNee, former Commissioner, Metropolitan Police, 74; Mr Michael Manser, architect, 70; Lord Morris of Manchester, 71; Mr Allan Mottram, Headmaster, Christ Church Cathedral School, Oxford, 50; Mr Michael Nyman, composer, 55; Professor T.J. Pedley, FRS, G.I. Taylor Professor of Fluid Mechanics, Cambridge University, 57; Sir Desmond Pitcher, former chairman, United Utilities, 64; Sir Ian Todd, former President, Royal College of Surgeons, 78; Sir Edward Warner, former diplomat, 88; Sir Denis Wright, former diplomat, 88.

Service dinner

RAF Club Dining Society
Mrs Polly Vacher was the guest of honour at a dinner of the RAF Club Dining Society held last night at the club. Air Commodore G.J.B. Claridge presided and Captain T.R. Fulton also spoke.

Royal engagements

The Prince of Wales, as patron, British Wheelchair Sports Foundation, will attend the launch of the Sporting Chance Appeal at Lancaster House, at 12.30; and will open the Art of the Sikh Kingdoms exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum at 6.30.

Prince Edward will attend a performance of *Dracula* by the Northern Ballet Theatre at Sadler's Wells Theatre, at 7.25.

The Princess Royal will open the British Association of Clothing Machinery Manufacturers' Clotech 99 exhibition at the NEC Birmingham at 11.00; will open the Cranfield Innovation Centre, Moulsoe Road, Cranfield, Bedfordshire, at 2.00; and, as patron, International Health Exchange, will attend the annual meeting at the Chancellor's Hall, Senate House, London University, at 5.15.

The Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief, will visit the 1st Battalion Devon and Dorset Regiment on exercise on Salisbury Plain at 11.00.

Dinners

Defence and Security Forum
The Ambassador of Israel was the guest speaker at a dinner of the Defence and Security Forum held last night at the Carlton Club. Lady Olga Maitland, president, was in the chair.

Inter-Parliamentary Union
Mr Allan Rogers, vice-chairman of the British group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, was the host at a dinner held last night on board *RS Hispaniola* in honour of a parliamentary delegation from Macedonia.

Society of Chemical Industry
Mr R.A. Holland, Chairman of Council of the Society of Chemical Industry, presented the 1998 SCI Lampitt medal to Professor Norman Blakeborough at a dinner held last night at Belgrave Square.



RICHARD CANNON

Judges selecting the finalists yesterday from more than 600 entries for this year's NatWest Art Prize. Work by the 11 shortlisted artists will go on show at the Lothbury Gallery in London on May 17. The competition, which has a £26,000 top prize and ten prizes of £1,000, is open to artists under 35 living, working or studying in Britain.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: William Smith, geologist, Churchill, Oxfordshire, 1769; Alfred Milner, Viscount Milner, imperialist, Giessen, Germany, 1854; Michael Savage, Prime Minister of New Zealand 1935-40, Rothesay, Victoria, 1872; Sir Muirhead Bone, watercolourist and etcher, Glasgow, 1876; Juan Gris, painter and pioneer of Cubism, Madrid, 1887; Cedric Gibbons, film designer, Dublin, 1893; Erich Fromm, physiologist, Frankfurt am Main, 1900; Joan Crawford, actress, San Antonio, Texas, 1908; Wernher von Braun, pioneer of rocketry, Wirsitz, Germany, 1912; Jimmy Edwards, comedy actor, Barnes, 1920; Donald Campbell, holder of land and water speed records, Horley, Surrey, 1921.

DEATHS: Thomas Holcroft, dramatist and novelist, London, 1809; August von Kotzebue, dramatist, murdered, Mannheim, Germany, 1819; Stendhal (Marie-Henri Beyle), novelist, Paris, 1842; Raoul Dufy, painter, Forcalquier, France, 1953.

London's first tramcars, designed by a Mr Train of New York, began operating from Bayswater, 1861.

Benito Mussolini, an Italian socialist journalist, formed the Fascists to fight liberalism and communism, 1919.

Austin Peay, Governor of Tennessee, signed a statute forbidding the teaching of Darwin's theory of evolution in state schools, 1925.

The first official meeting for 400 years between the heads of the Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches took place in Rome, 1966.

Assistant Recorders

The following have been appointed to sit as Assistant Recorders on the South Eastern Circuit:

Mr Graham Linley Aldous; Miss Grace Tina Amakye; Miss Shani Estelle Barnes; Miss Sallie Ann Bennett Jenkins; Mr Nicholas John Gorrod Blake, QC; Mr Andrew John Bright; Mr John Brooke-Smith; Mr Frank Burton, QC; Mr John Arthur Caudle; Mr Roger Graham Chapple; Mr Edward Mervyn Cohen; Mr Bruce Robert Coleman; Miss Kharin Pauline Cox; Mr John Stanislaus Dodd; Mr Mark Christopher Ellison; Mr Simon Dennis Marsden Freeland; Mr Neil Stephen Garnham; Mrs Diana Frances Good; Mr Allan Peter Gore; Mr Courtenay Delsdue McVay Griffiths, QC; Mr Peter Liam Guest; Mr Nicholas Archibold Hamblen, QC; Mr Nicholas Michael Heathcote Williams; Miss Marianna Catherine Hildyard; Mr John Graham Hobson; Miss Jane Carole Humphryes; Mr Stephen John Irwin, QC; Mr Robert Maurice Jay, QC; Mr Edward Nicholas Jenkins; Mr Stephen Alun John; Mr Richard Henry Jones, QC; Mr Thomas Victor William Kark; Mr Michael Harcourt Kent, QC; Ms Elisabeth Mary Caroline Laing; Mr Noel John MacLucas; Mr Richard Dudley Lynagh, QC; District Judge Nicholas John Madge; Mr Stephen Martin Males, QC; Mr David William Mayhew; Mr Andrew Edmund McCooey; Mr Patrick Martin Joseph Moloney, QC; Miss Clare Patricia Montgomery, QC; Mr Peter Jonathan Moss; Mr Martin Patrick O'Dwyer; Miss Judith May Rowe; Mr Philip James Sales; Mr Henry John Setright; Mr Richard Jonathan Simpkiss; Miss Deborah Frances Taylor; Mr Stephen Clifford Warner; Mr Michael John David Warren; Miss Anesta Glendora Weekes.

Church news

Bishop of Edmonton
The Ven Peter Wheatley, Archdeacon of Hampstead (London): to be the Bishop Suffragan of Edmonton in succession to the late Bishop Brian Masters (same diocese).

Appointments
The Rev Brian Abell, Vicar, Masham and Healey (Ripon): to be also Hon Canon of Ripon Cathedral.
Canon Robert Aiton, Vicar, Durrington (Chichester): to be also Canon of Chichester Cathedral, and Prebendary of Eartham (same diocese).
The Rev Susan Allman, Honorary Curate, Henleaze St Peter (Bristol): to be Curate Southmead St Stephen (same diocese).
Canon John Ashby, Vicar, Willingdon (Chichester): to be also Canon of Chichester Cathedral, and Prebendary of Heathfield.
Canon Colin Bevington, Chaplain to the Bishop of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich, and Diocesan and Diocesan Ecumenical Officer: to be Rural Dean of Samford, and Priest-in-Charge, Holbrook, Freston, Woolverstone and Wherstead (same diocese).

Reception

CHEC
Dr L.M. Singhvi, honorary president of the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC), and General Dr Y. Gowon, chairman of the Human Ecology Foundation, were the hosts at a reception held last night in New Zealand House to mark the 40th anniversary of the council and the honour conferred on Mrs Zena Daysh. The High Commissioner for New Zealand was present.

Guild of Freemen of the City of London

The following have been installed officers of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London:

Master, Mr Terry Nemko; Senior Warden, Mr Joseph Byllam-Barnes; Renter Warden, Mr David Irving; Junior Warden, Lady Moorea Black; Under Warden, Mr Raymond Holl.

Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators

The following have been installed officers of the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators:

Master, Captain John Hutchinson; Master-elect, Mr Arthur Thorning; Wardens, Mr Michael Grayburn, Mr Duncan Simpson and Mr Michael Willett.

University news

Cambridge

King's College
Stephen Anthony Alford, PhD, St Andrews, Scotland, has been elected into a Senior Research Fellowship in British History from October 1, for four years.

Memorial meeting

Mr Peter Cotes
A memorial meeting to celebrate the life of Mr Peter Cotes, theatre director and writer, was held yesterday at Conway Hall, London.

Ms Bonnie Hurren read *Remember* by Christina Rossetti and from Peter Cotes' autobiography. Mr Jonathan Goodman, Mr Bill McIlroy and Mr David Howe paid tribute. Ms Hedli Niklaus gave an address and read a tribute from Ms Eileen Atkins.

During the meeting, music-hall songs and tapes of Peter Coates talking were played. Members of the family, friends, former colleagues and representatives of the Savage Club were present.

Luncheons

Monday Luncheon Club
Rear-Admiral James R. Stark, USN, vice-president western Europe of Northrop Grumman, was the principal guest at a luncheon of the Monday Luncheon Club held yesterday at the Savoy Hotel. Mr Roland Shaw presided.

First Sea Lord
A luncheon was held at the First Sea Lord's Residence yesterday in honour of the Chief of Italian Naval Staff, Ammiraglio di Squadra Umberto Guarnieri, to mark his visit to the United Kingdom. Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff, presided.

Rotary Club of London
Mr Ian Ogilvie was the speaker at a luncheon of the Rotary Club of London held yesterday at the Portman Hotel. Mr John Buchanan, president, presided.

Meetings

Royal Institute of International Affairs
Mr John E. Rielly, President of the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, was the speaker at a meeting of the Royal Institute of International Affairs held yesterday at Chatham House.

Byron Society
Lord Byron attended the annual meeting of the Byron Society held yesterday at the St Ermin's, St James's. Mr Geoffrey Bond presided. Dr Peter Payan presided at a lecture delivered afterwards by Dr Raymond Mills.

Lecture

Goldsmiths College, University of London
Professor David Killingray, Professor of Modern History, will deliver the inaugural lecture "Race, Faith and Politics: Harold Moody and The League of Coloured Peoples" at Goldsmiths College tonight. Admission is free. Telephone 0171 919 7957 for further information. Goldsmiths College, University of London, New Cross, London, SE14 6NW.

Air Training Corps

Baroness Blatch, Sir Michael Graydon and Air Marshal Sir Anthony Bagnall have been appointed members of the Air Cadet Council, the Air Training Corps governing body.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr E.J. Baden-Powell and Miss R.M. Dean
The engagement is announced between Edward, elder son of Francis Baden-Powell, of Lewes, Sussex, and of Charlotte Baden-Powell, of Bath, and Rosa, younger daughter of Geoffrey and Una Dean, of Haywards Heath, Sussex.

Mr T.C. Fidler and Miss K.J. Ebsworth
The engagement is announced between Timothy Charles, elder son of Dr and Mrs Richard Fidler, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, and Katrina Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Gregory Ebsworth, of Melbourne, Australia.

Mr S.T. Fuller and Mrs M.A. Farley
The engagement is announced between Stanton Fuller, of Tarporley, Cheshire, and Margie Farley, of Wallingford, Oxfordshire. The marriage will take place in early summer.

Mr W.E.J. Holland and Miss F.E.L. Freeman
The engagement is announced between William, son of Mr and Mrs William Holland, of Chaceley, Gloucestershire, and Fiona, daughter of Lieutenant-Commander and Mrs Miles Freeman, of Minskip, York.

Mr W.F. Hugill and Miss J.E.M. Thornton
The engagement is announced between Freddy, son of Mrs B.J. Leaver, of London and the late Mr R.G. Hugill, and Annie, only daughter of Major and Mrs John Thornton, of Box.

Mr A.K. Slatter and Miss E.C.L. Thrower
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Slatter, of Chislehurst, Kent, and Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Gerald Thrower, also Chislehurst, Kent.

School News

More House School
There will be a reunion lunch on Saturday, April 24, for former pupils who have left More House School, London, SW1 since 1990. Please telephone 0171 235 2855 if you would like more details.

Atlantic College

The Atlantic College Lecture on International Affairs was delivered by Mr Raymond Seitz, former American Ambassador to London, last night at Goldsmiths' Hall. College students from over 65 countries, all currently studying for the International Baccalaureate examination, were among those present.

Appointments

Press Complaints Commission
Dr Arthur Hearnden, OBE, and *Mr Malcolm Starbrook*, Editor of the *Croydon Advertiser*, have been appointed members of the Press Complaints Commission.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE; 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Do not accuse a man for no reason - when he has done you no harm. Proverbs 3.30 (NIV).

BIRTHS

AGNEW - On 17th March to Annabel (née Summers) and Caspar, a son Edward Thomas William, a brother for Hector and Daisy.

BARNETT - On Friday 12th March 1999, to Briony (née Sergeant) and Mark, a son, Charles Stephen Courtenay "Charlie".

BERNARD - On March 13th at The Portland Hospital, to Marie-Caroline (née Ardant) and Michel, a son, Antoine Patrick François - bringing us great joy.

BRANDON - On March 18th at The Portland Hospital, to Mandy (née Hare) and Jonty, a daughter, Deanna, a sister for Natasha.

CAIRA - On 13th March to Paul and Donna (née West), a son, Henry William, a brother for Frederica.

CALLEWAERT - On March 17th at The Portland Hospital, to Claire (née Henderson) and Michael, a son, Harrison Michael. Welcome.

CATTERMULL - On March 14th, to Jane (née Bredin) and Stuart, a daughter, Frances Anne, sister for Rory.

CLARK - On March 17th at The Portland Hospital, to Natalie and Robin, a son, Henry Stirling, a brother for Joseph Ayrton.

COCKER - On 16th March, to Rodney and Sally, a son, Michael Paul Martin.

CRAWLEY - See Phillips.

DACOSTA - On March 12th at The Portland Hospital, to Leyla and Lee, a son, Samuel, a brother for Thomas and Francesca.

D'ANGELO - On March 18th at The Portland Hospital, to Matilda and Enrico, a son, Myles Enrico, a brother for Molly.

de CHASTELAI RONDEL - On March 19th, to Allison (née Cronnelly) and Mark, a son, Patrick Christopher, a brother for Gabrielle.

DEMBLECAMPS - On March 10th at The Portland Hospital, to Jally (née Rahmati) and Patrick, a son, Alexandre, a brother for Sam.

EVERETT - On 1st March in Dubai, to Elena and Matthew, a son, Alexander Raymond Thomas, a brother for Charlotte.

GERTNER - On March 17th at The Portland Hospital, to Analisa and Mendi, a daughter, Chloé Simone, a sister for Nathan, Barry and Sammy. A princess to spoil.

GIBSON-WATT - On March 19th at The Portland Hospital, to Alexandra (née Steele) and Edward, a beautiful daughter, Mathilda (Tilly) Rose.

GONZALES - On March 19th at The Portland Hospital, to Alida and Manuel, a daughter, Alida.

BIRTHS

KOBEWKA - To Stefan and Deborah (née Lloyd), a daughter, Jasmine Isabelle on 17th March. A sister for Sophie and Benjamin.

NAMIKI - On March 15th at The Portland Hospital, to Keiko and Katsuhide, a daughter, Miyuki, a sister for Koichiro.

PHILLIPS - On March 17th 1999, to Alice (née Crawley) and Jonathan Mark, a beautiful daughter, Natalie Mary Rose, a sister for Jessica.

TURNER - On March 13th 1999, to Francesca (née Lacey) and John, a daughter, Octavia Isabella Margaret, a sister for Sophia, Imogen and Freddie.

VAL MARTINEZ - On March 20th in Bolton, to Sophie (née Brookes) and Fernando, a son, James Vaughan.

VENTOM - On 7th March 1999, to Caroline (née Hill) and Mark, a son, Liam James, a brother for Michael.

WIGGIN - On March 20th, to Simone and Daniel, a daughter, Alice Charlotte Rose, a sister for Edward.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

HARRIGAN - Carol. Mr and Mrs Norman Grundon would like to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy.

DEATHS

ARCHDALE - Arthur Joseph, aged 75 years, died at home on 19th March, 1999 after a long brave fight against a rare illness. Beloved husband of Sheena, father of Nigel, Alison and Victoria, and a dear grandfather. Headmaster, York House School, 1963 - 1984. Private cremation. Service of Thanksgiving at St Nicholas Church, Brockenhurst, on Thursday 25th March at 2.30pm. No flowers. Donations welcome to Great Ormond Street Hospital.

BEST - Norman, MC BSc. Tragically on 19th March, 1999, aged 84, beloved husband of Barbara; a dear father and grandfather. Funeral service at Chichester Crematorium, Friday 26th March at 3 pm. No flowers; donations, if desired, to RNLI Swanage.

BRAKSPEAR - Oswald Somers on Saturday 20th March at home aged 86, beloved husband, father and grandfather. Funeral at St Bartholomew's Corsham, Friday March 26th at 12 noon.

DEATHS

BURKITT - Bridget, aged 89 years, suddenly at home on March 18th. Widow of Robert William, mother of Joanna, Sara, Hugh, Patrick, James, Richard, grandmother of twenty one and great-grandmother of one. Funeral service at St Mary's Putney at 11 am on Monday 29th March. Everyone welcome. Enquiries to Ashton Mathias 0181 788 1790.

CARR - Geoffrey Graham at St Luke's Hospice, Sheffield on March 20th. Beloved husband of Joan and father of Jennifer, Jonathan, Hollie and Pennie Jane. Funeral at St Michael and All Angels, Beaconsfield, Thursday March 25th at 2.30 pm. Enquiries to Grimstead's Funeral Directors, (01494) 672668.

CLAYTON - Tom, on 15th March suddenly aged 95. Dearly loved husband of Margot. Cremation at 1.00pm, 24th March at Putney Vale. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to Aged Concern.

COLBECK - Dr Stuart Cordingley. In loving memory of a beloved father and grandfather who died peacefully on 21st March in his 93rd year in Auckland, New Zealand. Funeral at St Aidans Church, Remuera, Auckland, Thursday 25th March. No flowers please.

CONSTANTINE - Norah Patricia (Pat) née Martin. Passed peacefully away on Saturday 20th March in Jersey. Wife of the late Brian, much loved mother of Mary, John and the late Timothy, sister of Pamela Edwards and grandmother of Nina, Thomas, Selina and Brian. Enquiries regarding donations or flowers to Pitcher and Le Quesne Ltd Funeral Directors, tel 01534 33330.

DODDS - George Smith F.I.C.E. (retired Director of Dar-Al-Handasah) a Middle Eastern based engineering company. 15th March 1999. Peacefully in hospital aged 71 years. Beloved husband of Mary. Dearly loved father of Irene and Nigel. Will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. R.I.P. All enquiries to Thomas McMullan Funeral Services, Birkenhead, tel: 0151-653-4173.

ENTRACT - On 1st March 1999 Terrence Herbert Francis of Horsell, Surrey, due to a stroke. Mourned by Irene his wife, Richard and Claire, Nicholas and Jane; John and Pat (Ashley), Katharine, Shelagh and Norman. In WWII he was a F/Lieut. Navigator in RAF Bomber Command shot down over Chartres in France after thirty flights, he was made prisoner and sent to Stalagluft III in Silesia for over two years. Requiescat in Pace.

FOSTER-SMITH - Peacefully at Priscilla Bacon Lodge on March 19th Mary Margaret (née Happe). Beloved mother of Jonathan, Jane, Sally and Sam and grandmother of Ben, Tom and Charles. Funeral Service to be held at Christ Church Eaton, Norwich on Maundy Thursday April 1st at 2pm. Family flowers only. Donations please to the N.S.P.C.C. or Priscilla Bacon Lodge c/o Peter Taylor Funeral Services, 85 Unthank Road, Norwich.

GILBERT - Peacefully at West Suffolk Hospital, Bury St Edmunds, on March 20th 1999 after a long illness, John Gilbert Gilbert, aged 72. Much loved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Sadly missed by all the family. Funeral at West Suffolk Crematorium, 10.30am, Tuesday March 30th 1999.

GREEN - On March 21st, Carolyn (née Marks) loved and loving wife of John, mother of Katie and Lucy, stepmother of Niki, passed away peacefully after a long illness fought with determination and dignity. Treasured and mourned by her parents, Charles and Geraldine Marks, her sister Janice, brother Adrian, their families and many wonderful friends.

HENRY - Kenneth Beaufort, beloved husband of the late Gwendoline Margaret of Lower Chute Wiltshire. Dearly loved father and grandfather, passed away 18th March 1999. The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. No flowers by request. Donations to Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o Dunning Funeral Service, 2 Church Close, Andover, Hants. SP10 1DP.

HODGES - J.R.B. (Brian). On 20th March in St Pancras Hospital. Much loved husband of Jocelyn, father of Lucy, Sarah and Caroline. Funeral at Golders Green Crematorium 26th March 2.45 pm. Family flowers only, donations to Parkinson's Society, 215 Vauxhall Bridge Road, SW1V 1EJ.

HOUCHIN - On March 18th 1999 Frances Muriel aged 105 years, wife of the late Dr. Caesar Houchin. An independent lady of indomitable spirit. Funeral private but donations if wished to Injured Jockeys Fund of which "Mu" was a lifelong supporter.

LEIGH - Estelle Josephine Mary, O.B.E., FPS, MCPP, (née Feeney) of Aughton, Ormskirk, passed away peacefully on 20th March 1999, aged 81 years. Beloved wife of the late John Clifford and much loved sister of Adele (Boston, USA). President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain 1977-78, Charter Gold Medal 1983. Estelle was loved and respected by all who had the privilege of knowing her and will be sadly missed. Flowers/Funeral enquiries to Hunters, Funeral Directors, Ormskirk tel: 01695 572997.

MACKINNON - June peacefully on 19th March 1999, widow of the late Bee Mackinnon, mother of Peter and Daniel. Funeral Service will be held at Guildford Crematorium on Friday 26th March at 11.30am. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to St John Ambulance c/o Robert Ayling Funeral Services, 25 South Road, Guildford.

MAGNUS - Anna, widow of S.W. (Val) Magnus. A lady of great courage and dignity passed away suddenly after a long illness bravely borne on 17th March. Dearly loved and sadly missed by her brother Harry, daughter Pat, son-in-law Anthony, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives and friends.

MERRY - Anthony Lee, March 17th, with great dignity, aged 68. Devoted husband of Pam, loving father to Amanda and Belinda, best friend to Ken and Adrian and grandpa to James and Elsa. We will all miss him so very much. Cremation at Guildford Crematorium, 2.00pm Monday, March 29th. Family flowers only, but donations, if desired, to Dr Clare Topham, Cancer Research, St Luke's Hospital, Guildford.

OTTER - Monica (Mogs). On March 20th in the wonderful care of the Peterborough Sue Ryder Palliative Care Home, daughter of Mr A.B. and Mrs M.A. Harwood, M.B.E., late of Nottingham. Will be greatly missed by her family, including seven grandchildren, her many devoted friends and Xyla and Magic. Funeral private. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at Pilton Church, near Oundle on Saturday, April 10th at 2.30pm.

PANNICK - Denise. On 21st March, aged 42, of cancer. Beloved wife of David and devoted mother of Sam, Joel and Shula. Funeral at Bushey Jewish Cemetery, Wednesday 23rd March at 1.00pm.

PARSONS - Ronald Hedley. Passed away peacefully on 20th March 1999 aged 92 years. Ronald husband of the late Dorothy Anderson Parsons MBE, his beloved 'Do', wonderful father to Mary, Paul, Hugh and Jenny and Pompa to all his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Ronald, senior partner of Plummer Parsons & Co., Chartered Accountants, Eastbourne, a member of the Hospital Management Committee, Financial Advisor to the Board of Eastbourne College and a generous contributor to numerous charitable organisations. A service of Thanksgiving will be held on Thursday 25th March at 12 noon at the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Meads, Eastbourne. Donations instead of flowers would be gratefully appreciated by either the Friends of Eastbourne Hospitals or St Wilfrids Hospice, c/o Haine & Son Ltd, 19 South Street, Eastbourne, telephone 01323 727801.

PLAYFAIR - On 21st March 1999, peacefully at home in London, Sir Edward Playfair KCB, aged 89, much loved husband of Molly, father of Sarah, Mary and Emma, and grandfather of Tabitha, Leo, Ned, Pia, Sam and Jo. The cremation has taken place. At his request, no memorial service.

RENDELL - On March 21st at St John's Hospice, London NW8, Donald Rendell, aged 74, dearly loved husband of Ruth, father of Simon and grandfather of Phillip and Graham. Funeral March 26th at 2.30pm, St Bartholomew's Church, Groton, Suffolk. Family flowers only. Donations to Cancer Research.

ROSS GOOBEY - On 19th March 1999, suddenly at home, George Ross Goobey, FIA aged 87. Much loved husband of Gladys, father of Gillian and Alastair, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral at All Saints, Clevedon, North Somerset on Tuesday 30th March at 2.30pm. Memorial Service will be held in the City of London at a later date. No flowers please, but donations to Clevedon Cottage Hospital or All Saints Church Fund.

SENN - Peter Donald Rowland, aged 75, peacefully on 21st March at the Royal Star and Garter Home for disabled sailors, soldiers and airmen, Richmond, Surrey. Much mourned by his many friends. Cremation at 11 am Tuesday 30th March at Mortlake Crematorium, Kew Meadow Path, Townmead Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4EN. Flowers to Andrew Holmes and Son, 378 Richmond Road, Twickenham.

ST. OSWALD - On Thursday 18th March having suffered a long illness with courage and patience, Derek Edward Anthony Winn, 5th Baron St Oswald of Nostell Priory, Yorkshire. Dearly loved husband of Denise and father of Geva and Charles. A Memorial Service will be announced shortly. The small private funeral has already taken place.

UYTMAN - Suddenly at St Johns Hospital, Livingston on 20th March 1999, Camilla, beloved wife of the late John, much loved mother of Mandy and Donald and devoted grandmother of Liam. All family and friends are welcome to attend a celebration of Camilla's life at Mortonhall Crematorium Main Chapel, Edinburgh on Friday 26th March at 3 pm. Any enquiries to William Purves Funeral Directors Tel: 0131 447 5858.

VAUGHAN - Yvonne on March 17th peacefully in hospital after a stroke. Sadly missed by nieces Diana, Morven, family and friends.

VOWELS - Reginald Charles, dearly loved father, grandfather and friend on 18th March with great courage and dignity. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him. Funeral service at St Mary's Church, Beaconsfield Old Town, on Monday 29th March at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired to The Iain Rennie Hospice at Home Movement, Cedar Barn, Cedar Avenue, Hazlemere, High Wycombe, Bucks HP15 7DW.

WARE - Peter (70) Architect, died after a short illness. Much loved husband of Marie, father to Charlie, Edward, Louise and Liz. Service to be held at St Peter and St Paul Cathedral, Clifton, Bristol on Friday 26th March at 11.45 am. Reception after at Bristol Zoo. All are welcome. Family flowers only. Peter would have appreciated donations to the Bristol Architecture Centre.

WELLS - On 18th March, peacefully, after a brief illness, aged 97, Rosina Brown (Rhona) Wells, née Macpherson, widow of the late G.S. Wells CBE, MC. The funeral will be held at The City of London Crematorium, Aldersbrook on Friday 26th March at 12 noon. No flowers, donations to Age Concern.

WILTON - Diana Mary (née Milliner) died suddenly on 20th March 1999. Much loved by sons Niall, Steven, Jay, brothers Tim, John and five adoring grandchildren. Funeral at St Nicholas Church, Summer Road, Thames Ditton on Friday 26th March at 10 am, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations to RNLI or Cancer Research c/o F.W. Paine, 265 Ewell Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7AA.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

FILMER, Sandra. Died 24th February 1999. A Service of Thanksgiving to be held on Wednesday 24th March 1999 at 4pm at St. Peter's Church, Eaton Square, London, SW1, to celebrate the life of Sandra Filmer by all those who knew her.

THOMAS - A service to celebrate the life of Admiral Sir Richard Thomas will be held on Thursday 29th April at Westminster Cathedral at 3 pm.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

MOODY - Peter James. Born London 22/3/33. Died 23rd March 1989 in Zimbabwe, in his 57th "Movement" year. Ex-B.S.A.P. Sadly missed by his wife Rosemary, children Tim, Pat and Jill and grandchildren Sarah, Tom, Natalie and Samantha. We treasure the wonderful times we shared together and the laughter you generated.

O'LEARY - Ray on 23rd March 1996. Always remembered, always in my heart. Titch.

VAN LOO - In memory of Margot, a gracious, loving and much loved wife, mother and grandma, who died on 23rd March, 1992. She is with us every day. G.



OBITUARIES

SIR MICHAEL CAINE

Sir Michael Caine, Chairman of Booker, 1979-93, died on March 20 aged 71. He was born on June 17, 1927.

In a career of more than forty years with the international food and agribusiness company Booker, Michael Caine was successively chief executive and chairman. But his interests ranged over a much wider field than the immediate concerns of the business. Caine was until 1995 the guiding spirit of the Booker Prize for Fiction, serving as chairman of its management committee for nearly 25 years.

For all the razzmatazz that accompanies the prize today, with the accent on big names, big controversies and big sales, Caine's original modest aim was simply to recognise and promote new English-language novels of distinction. He had an arm's-length attitude to the judges and their choices, and although he was a voracious reader, he kept his shrewd criticisms of the shortlists almost to himself.

In his quarter-century as host of the award ceremony, Caine had many alarming moments. In 1972 the winner, John Berger, accused the sponsors of more than a century of Third World exploitation and said he would be giving half his tainted prize money to the Black Panthers. The following year, J. G. Farrell lambasted fat-cat company chairmen and the Royal Family, while R. A. Butler inexplicably cracked anti-Semitic jokes as he handed over the winner's cheque. Other dramas included Beryl Bainbridge lying down on the floor for the entire ceremony, claiming that she felt more comfortable there, while the television coverage itself often made the news through its tendency to trivialise the event. But the prize itself came in for some of the fiercest attacks, with yearly claims that Booker had "dumbed it down" to the extent that it had more to do with showbusiness than with literature.

Caine bore this cannonade of insults with equanimity. When, in 1991, he was asked to widen Booker's literary sponsorship to post-perestroika Russia, he jumped at the chance. He enlisted the help of the British Council, but happily tramped the streets of Moscow himself, searching out Russian literary figures in Stalinist apartment blocks — despite not having a word of Russian. With Booker sponsorship coming to an end, he worked hard to ensure continued support from a new sponsor, Diageo.

Michael Harris Caine was born in Hong Kong, the son of Sir Sydney Caine, a colonial civil servant and Director of the London School of Economics, and Muriel Harris. He was educated at Bedales, Lincoln College, Oxford, and in America at George Washington University. After serving in the British Embassy in Washington, he joined Booker as a protégé of Lord Campbell of Eskan in 1952.



Caine: combined formidable intellect with a sense of fun

He began his business career in Guyana, to which he later returned to lead the team that negotiated Booker's ultimate disinvestment in 1976. It was due in no small measure to his patient diplomacy that the departure in the end was amicable, and a later Guyanese Government turned back to Booker to manage its nationalised sugar factories and estates.

Caine will be remembered for his untiring work in the Commonwealth, especially in Africa. From his first visits to Zambia and Malawi in the 1950s he became a doughty champion of that troubled continent. He took up the daunting challenge of organising and fundraising for Africa '95, a celebration of African arts. It took two years to prepare, with nationwide exhibitions and concerts, bringing previously unknown music, art, dance and poetry to millions.

At the time of his death, he was president of the Royal African Society, having served as its chairman for the previous 12 years. He was also chairman of the African Emerging Markets Fund, of the Africa Centre in London and of the Artisan Trust. Earlier he had been a director and deputy chairman of the Commonwealth Development Corporation and served on various other bodies promoting private investment, including the business advisory group of the International Finance Corporation in Washington.

Caine combined a formidable intellect with a sense of fun. He overcame a distinct stammer by ignoring it. He had a phenomenal memory for people and places. He was generous in praise, skilled at cajoling and gentle in admonition. He was as relaxed with presidents and company chairmen as with friends over lunch at the Reform Club or pottering in his garden. Once, when in Barbados watching cricket, he was summoned to tea by the former Commonwealth Secretary-General, his old friend Sir "Sonny" Ramphal, and during an interval in play he simply took a short cut across the pitch.

As well as his Commonwealth interests, Caine was at various times a council member of the Institute of Race Relations; Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford; the Institute of Development Studies; and the IBA. He was chairman of the UK Council for Overseas Student Affairs, the Commonwealth Scholarships Commission, the One World Broadcasting Trust and Five TV. He was knighted in 1988.

Michael Caine was a devoted husband, father and grandfather, and in recent years his family was augmented by Amar, a badly injured Iraqi orphan of whom Caine and his second wife, Emma Nicholson, became the guardians.

He married, first, Janice Mercer (a marriage dissolved in 1987) and, second, in 1987, Emma Nicholson (Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne), to whom he gave devoted support in her parliamentary career as a Conservative and later a Liberal Democrat MP. She survives him, with the son and daughter of his first marriage.

ALFRED SCHLEE

Alfred Schlee, music publisher, died in Vienna on February 16 aged 97. He was born on November 19, 1901.

THE Viennese publishing house of Universal Edition has, since its foundation in 1901, played a crucial part in shaping the history of modern music. It has been the main outlet for some of the most important and influential composers of the century, among them Arnold Schoenberg, Alban Berg, Anton Webern, Béla Bartók, Karol Szymanowski, Leos Janacek and Kurt Weill. As the firm's longest-serving employee, Alfred Schlee bore witness at first hand to the musical revolutions that swept through Europe and beyond in the early decades of the century and, with similar ferocity, soon after the end of the Second World War.



Schlee: witnessed musical revolution at first hand

Throughout his long career, Schlee displayed a knack for tracking down the best and the most durable in new music. The high esteem in which he was held in the musical world was evident on the occasion of his 90th birthday when, at a concert given in Vienna's Konzerthaus by the Arditti String Quartet, no fewer than 20 distinguished composers, whose work he had tirelessly promoted, offered tribute pieces in his honour. Among them were Luciano Berio, Pierre Boulez, György Kurtág, Olivier Messiaen and Arvo Pärt. Well into his nineties, although visibly frail and officially retired, Schlee continued to support his protégés, attending, for instance, the Viennese premiere of *The Second Mrs Kong*, the Glyndebourne opera by a composer whom he had supported and published long before he acquired the international reputation he now enjoys — Sir Harrison Birtwistle.

Alfred Schlee was born in Dresden and studied piano, cello and music theory from an early age. He continued his studies of musicology, composition, philosophy and theatre, in Munich, Leipzig and Vienna. At the same time he pursued the interest in modern art which was to remain with him all his life. During the 1920s he became involved with the Bauhaus movement (collaborating with Oscar Schlemmer on his *Triadisches Ballett*); met Erich Kleiber during the premiere of Berg's *Wozzeck* in Berlin; made contact with the Brecht circle; and worked as a dance critic, repetiteur and, at theatres in Münster and Gera, as a dramaturg.

Family problems meant that he was unable to complete his doctoral studies, but he had the good fortune to make contact with Universal Edition (UE), where a number of independent projects, including the editorship of the firm's influential modern music journal *Anbruch*, prepared him for the permanent relationship with the company into which he was soon to enter and to which he devoted the rest of his long life. His career was to stretch from the period of composition of Berg's *Lulu* in the 1920s and 1930s to the opera's triumphant Parisian premiere *in toto* some fifty years later.

Schlee officially joined UE in 1927, working first for a short period at the firm's headquarters in Vienna, under the guidance of the head of the music theatre department Hans Heinsheimer. He was soon given greater responsibility and in 1930 relocated to Berlin, where it was his duty to further the company's interests in Germany. Given UE's commitment to composers anathematised as "degenerate" by the Nazi authorities, it proved, of course, an uphill struggle, despite Schlee's best efforts, and in 1938 he returned to Vienna.

The war years themselves were a testing time for Schlee, who, promoted to director, was one of the few permitted to remain on the company's staff. Perhaps because the company was based in Austria, UE was spared some of the pressure exerted on other houses to publish material of an overtly propagandist nature: its leading German rivals, such as Breitkopf & Härtel, Schott and Bärenreiter, all dutifully issued National Socialist songbooks.

Schlee not only succeeded in preserving a vast amount of condemned material for future publication, he also managed to publish a limited amount of new music, including a cantata by the blacklisted Webern. He was also able to add Gottfried von Einem and the Jewish Rolf Liebermann to the UE catalogue, and established cordial relations with the Swiss composer Frank Martin, whom he was later to publish.

After the war a new set of challenges presented themselves. With the exodus of many major music publishers, the virtual monopoly which Germany had enjoyed in the industry was effectively at an end. Rather than respond by attempting to build up a broadly based catalogue, encompassing music of all styles and periods, Schlee chose to reassert UE's commitment to music at the cutting edge of modernism. Not only were the firm's prewar composers vigorously promoted, but a remarkable influx of new talent, pre-eminently Berio, Birtwistle, Boulez, Mauricio Kagel and Karlheinz Stockhausen, soon found a welcoming home within the distinctive white covers of its immaculately produced scores.

Despite the acquisition to its catalogue of the minimalist Arvo Pärt, UE continues to this day as a publisher committed to the high modernist ideals of the greater part of the 20th century. Until his retirement in 1985, Schlee's career was inseparable from those of the composers he supported, major figures who continue, despite various anti-modernist backlashes, to lead the way in music today.

Alfred Schlee was an intensely private man, and even former colleagues only learnt of his death once the family funeral had taken place. He married Margarethe Molner in 1960. They had two sons.

SIR EDWARD PLAYFAIR

Sir Edward Playfair, KCB, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence, 1960-61, died on March 21 aged 89. He was born on May 17, 1909.

AFTER 22 years rising through the ranks of the Treasury, Edward Playfair found himself, in 1956 translated to the War Office as Under Secretary just before Suez. Both at the War Office and later at the Ministry of Defence, Playfair had a difficult row to hoe. In the aftermath of Suez there were drastic changes in the Army: the ending of National Service, the creation of an all-professional force, and massive reorganisations and cuts. In addition, this took place at a time when the Army was heavily engaged in a stream of brushfire campaigns abroad, various uprisings and the beginnings of the steady withdrawal from Empire.



Playfair: avid pursuit of a wide range of knowledge

Playfair's devotion to his defence posts cost him his chance to rise high in the Treasury, where he would have liked to end his Civil Service career. Consequently he felt highly aggrieved when, twenty years later, his name was suddenly before the public again as having been on an MI5 list of suspected traitors to their country. This came about when, in July 1984, it was revealed that his name, along with those of more than forty other officials, including such known spies for the Soviet Union as Kim Philby, had been passed by MI5's mole-hunters (among them Peter Wright, later the author of the book *Spycatcher*) to the head of the service, Sir Martin Furnival-Jones, in the 1970s. Playfair, a former chairman of the trustees of the National Gallery and an old friend of the art historian and communist spy Anthony Blunt, vehemently denied the charges, and no more was heard of the matter.

Edward Wilder Playfair was the son of a physician. He was educated at Eton and King's College, Cambridge, of which he was a scholar. He took a First in the Classical Tripos (Part I) in 1928 and a Second in the Historical Tripos (Part II) in 1930 and in the following year joined the Board of Inland Revenue.

In 1934 he went to the Treasury where, ten years later, he was promoted to Assistant Secretary. In 1946 he was seconded to the Foreign Office and went to the Control Office Germany and Austria to take charge of finance. It was this service, and the close contact with the War Office it entailed, which made him a natural candidate to the War Office Under-Secretaryship when it later became vacant.

In 1947 he returned to the Treasury and by 1952 he had been promoted to Third Secretary. In 1956 the post of Permanent Under-Secretary at the War Office fell vacant, and, after an unprecedented interregnum caused by the rejection or withdrawal of a number of candidates, Playfair was chosen by that office. In this esoteric department ripe for change he thus became to some extent identified with his predecessors.

In fact, his appointment marked a climacteric in the affairs of the Army and of the War Office, as well as in his own career. Within two months, the Suez Canal was seized, and the long stop-go military preparations started for the Suez expedition. This was scarcely over when plans matured for a return to an all-regular Army, of a size governed by the controversial 1957 White Paper. The whole structure of the Army underwent drastic modification and reduction, with a lengthy aftermath of personnel redundancy and amalgamations of units.

In 1960 Playfair went on to be Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence. He stayed there only until mid-1961, when, finding the path of return to the Treasury barred, he left the Civil Service.

He next became Chairman of International Computers and Tabulators and accepted several other directorships, including those of the NatWest Bank and Glaxo Holdings. During the ICT selection process, it was remarked that Playfair had the mind of a computer.

In fact, his chairmanship of ICT fell in a time of rapid technological change. During his tenure, the business base was strengthened by the association of the computer branches of other firms, and a considerable measure of government support was attracted. In the end, however, there was a rearrangement of the top direction of the company, and Playfair resigned the chairmanship. But he kept himself mentally active with his other directorships.

Eddie Playfair was gifted with an exceptionally quick intellect, and an avid desire to acquire an extraordinary range of knowledge. He had many enthusiasms, some readily abandoned, some pursued with the greatest determination. Ideas flowed from his pen in great profusion. His ties with the press were close, and he was for several years a trustee of *The Observer*. He also took part in broadcast discussions, particularly on the Civil Service. He was never really at home among those whom he termed "the amateurs of soldiers", or in the rougher contacts of business life.

His true sphere was the Treasury, and there nothing can have been more congenial to him than the time when part of his responsibility related to museums and art galleries. He had strong artistic feeling and was a member of the Fine Arts Commission besides being chairman of the National Gallery, 1972-74.

His interest in education continued throughout his life; he was a governor of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, 1958-83, and served on the College Committee of the University of London, 1961-77. He was also a valued contributor to the obituary columns of *The Times*.

Edward Playfair was appointed CB in 1949 and promoted KCB in 1957.

He married, in 1941, Dr Mary Lois Rae (Molly), daughter of G. B. Rae, and had three daughters. His wife and children survive him.

ON THIS DAY

March 23, 1888

Tchaikovsky, to give him the modern version of his name, was 48 on his first visit to Britain. He seems to have been greeted, critically, with guarded enthusiasm

M. TSCHAIKOWSKI

For the second Philharmonic concert, given at St. James-hall last night, the directors had provided an attraction which, although less universally popular than Madame Schumann's appearance at the first, did not fail to draw a good audience, including many musicians of note.

M. Tschaikowski, one of the leading composers of the Russian school, is at present visiting Western Europe, bent upon one of the pleasantest errands that can fall to an artist's share. With a liberality unknown in countries where the purse strings are in the hands of popular assemblies, the Russian Government has granted him a travelling stipend for no other purpose apparently than that he should see and be seen and heard by various nations. In the case of a famous composer such a journey naturally takes the form of a triumphal progress.

For the last fortnight M. Tschaikowski has been the hero of musical Paris, where he has been *fêted* at public concerts and in fashionable drawing-rooms; last night he made his first appearance before an English public, conducting two of his own works and being received with every mark of distinction. The occasion was indeed one of more than merely individual significance. M. Tschaikowski comes to us as the representative of a school of music, young as yet and comparatively undeveloped, but all the more rich in promise because it draws its inspiration from distinct national sources. Of that school very little is known among us. Glinka, its founder, is an honoured name in musical history, and an Italian version of his *La Vie pour le Czar* was recently produced at Covent Garden, though without much success.

Rubinstein, the greatest of Russian musicians, is of course well known in this country, both as composer and as pianist, but his name is German and so to a large extent is his music. One must go to such composers as Borodini and Tschaikowski to arrive at the peculiar flavour of Slavonic art and to realize that Napoleon's saying of the thin coating of civilization that divides the Russian from the Tartar holds good in music also.

What we mean is not that the art of their master lacks in any sense culture; they also have been trained at conservatoires and have imbibed the latest theories of the "advanced" German school; they are indeed mostly Wagnerians to the backbone.

But through it all one feels that here forces quite distinct from Western civilization are at work — rhythms, which immediately suggest the dances of peasants, intervals and harmonics which point through the medium of the Russian church service, to pentatonic scales and the modes of ancient Greece. It was this national *cachet* which chiefly interested English amateurs in the works of Tschaikowski which have been heard in London so far.

Apart from this, he is master of the orchestra and his symphonies no less than his chamber music and his songs are marked by breadth of treatment and lyrical impulse. Perhaps for the same reason he has been less successful in dramatic music.

PERSONAL COLUMN

LEGAL NOTICES

NO: 001875 OF 1999
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF M.L. LABORATORIES PLC
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 15 March 1999 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the Share Premium Account of the above-named Company by £24,743,046
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 31st day of March 1999
ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of the Share Premium Account should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.
A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such Person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same
DATED this 19th day of March 1999
Stringer Saul of 17 Hanover Square, London W1R 9AJ Solicitors for the above Company. Tel: 0171 917 8500 (Ref: AXS)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR AN EXTENDED HOURS ORDER
LICENSING ACT 1964 SECTION 70
LICENSING (EXTENDED HOURS ORDERS) RULES 1962
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
WE, PHILLIP MATTHEWS, BRENDAN MORTIMER LUCEY, JAMES MATTHEWS, KOTESH CHOUDRAY and CARLOS SWINTON-LEE all of The Rock Garden, 6/7 The Piazza, Covent Garden London WC2 having during the past six months carried on the trade or calling of licensees and being the persons holding the Justices' Licence for the premises to which Section 68 of the Licensing Act 1964 applies situated at 6/7 The Piazza, Covent Garden, London WC2 and known as The Rock Garden which premises are structurally adapted and bona fide intended to be used for the purpose of habitually providing for the accommodation of persons frequenting the premises musical or other entertainment in addition to substantial refreshment, as required by the said Section (the sale and supply of intoxicating liquor being ancillary to that refreshment and entertainment) HEREBY GIVE YOU NOTICE that we intend to apply to the Transfer Sessions for the said Division to be held at Horseferry Road Magistrates Court, 70 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AX on the 8th April 1999 next for an Order that the permitted hours in the said premises shall be extended for the purposes of Section 70 of the Licensing Act 1964 as provided in the said schedule to this notice.
Dated this 17th day of March 1999
Jeffrey Green Russell
Apollo House
56 New Bond Street
London W1Y 0SX
Solicitors and authorised agents for the applicants
SCHEDULE
The application relates to the parts of the premises indicated on the plan deposited with the Clerk to the Licensing Justices
DAY: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday
TIME TO WHICH PERMITTED HOURS EXTENDED: 1.00am the morning following

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHY - 1161D
CHARITY COMMISSION
CHARITIES: THE ROYAL MARINES CORPS MUSEUM AND THE ROYAL MARINES APPEAL FUND
REFERENCE: HN/62192/AFC
The Charity Commission has made a Scheme to amend the trusts of these charities. A copy can be seen for the next month at THE ROYAL MARINES MUSEUM, SOUTHSEA, HAMPSHIRE PO4 9PX or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4BL, quoting the above reference.

HENDERSON AMERICAN CAPITAL AND INCOME TRUST PLC
(IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 2199212
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
On 26 February 1999 the above company was placed into Members' Voluntary Liquidation and James Robert Drummond Smith and Nicholas James Dargan of Deloitte & Touche, Stonecutter Court, Stonecutter Street, London EC4A 4TR were appointed Joint Liquidators by the members.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the Joint Liquidators of the company intend making a final distribution to creditors.
Creditors of the company are required to prove their debts, before 16th April 1999, by sending to J R D Smith, Joint Liquidator, at the address given above, written statements of the amount they claim to be due to them from the company. They must also, if so requested, provide such further details or produce such documentary or other evidence as may appear to the Joint Liquidators to be necessary.
A creditor who has not proved his debt before 16th April 1999 is not entitled to disturb, by reason that he has not participated in it, the intended distribution. The Joint Liquidators may make the distribution without regard to the claim of any person in respect of a debt not already proved.
Dated 12 March 1999
J R D Smith
Joint Liquidator

NO: 001529 OF 1999
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF TOKYO-MITSUBISHI INTERNATIONAL PLC
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 1st March, 1999 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the cancellation of the share premium account of the above-named Company in the sum of £64,020,000
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 31st day of March, 1999.
Any Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said cancellation of share premium account should appear at the time of the Hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.
A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
Dated this 22nd day of March, 1999.
Allen & Overy
One New Change
London EC4M 9QQ
Ref: CKM/DWS
Solicitors for the above-named Company.

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TENDERS AND CONTRACTS

MALDIVES AIRPORTS AUTHORITY
MALE' INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

Invitation for Bids

Date: 21st March 1999

Invitation for Bid Number: IFB/MAA/VH/03/99

The Government of the Republic of Maldives represented by the Maldives Airports Authority wishes to invite sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of the following vehicles/equipments of given capacity

Type	Quantity
Dump Truck	04
Hydraulic Excavator	02
Wheel Loader	01

The financing of the above purchase will be through Supplier's Credit to be arranged by the Supplier repayable over a period of five years.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Maldives Airports Authority, Male' International Airport, Republic of Maldives, Fax No. (960) 325034, E-mail finance@airports.com.mv

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders on the submissions of a written application to the above address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US$200.00. Bidding documents will be sold effective *4th April 1999.*

Bids must be delivered to the above office on or before *1200 hrs on 3rd May 1999* and must be accompanied by a bid security as specified in Bid Data Sheet.

Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders/representatives who choose to attend at *1200 hrs on 3rd May 1999* at the office of Maldives Airports Authority, Male' International Airport.

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TENDERS AND CONTRACTS

MALDIVES AIRPORTS AUTHORITY
MALE' INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES
Invitation for Bids

Date: 21st March 1999
Invitation for Bid Number: IFB/MAA/GHE/02/99

The Government of the Republic of Maldives represented by the Maldives Airports Authority wishes to invite sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of following vehicles/equipments of given capacity.

Type	Quantity	Type	Quantity
Baggage tractor	3	Toilet Truck	2
Ground Power Unit	2	Water service truck	2
Hi Loader 20 ton	1	Conveyor belt	3
Hi Loader 7 ton	3	Container Dollies	15
Forklift 7 ton	1	Pallet Dollies	10
Mobile stairs	6	Ambulift	1

The financing of the above purchase will be through Supplier's Credit to be arranged by the Supplier repayable over a period of five years.

Interest eligible bidders may obtain further information from Maldives Airports Authority, Male' International Airport. Republic of Maldives, Fax No. (960) 325034, E-Mail finance@airports.com.mv.

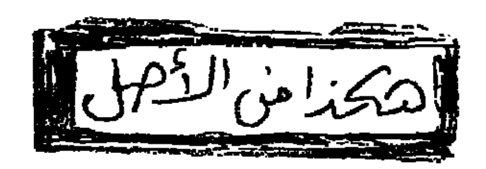
A pre-bid meeting will be held on *15th April 1999 at 1200hrs* at the office of Maldives Airports Authority, Male' International Airport for those bidders who require further information.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the above address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US $ 200.00. Bidding documents will be sold effective *4th April 1999.*

Bids must be delivered to the above office on or before *1200 hrs on 16th May 1999* and must be accompanied by a bid security as specified in Bid Data Sheet.

Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders/representatives who choose to attend at *1200 hrs on 16th May 1999* at the office of Maldives Airports Authority, Male' International Airport.

Managing Director
MALDIVES AIRPORTS AUTHORITY



Henrietta Lake reports on the educating of industry

University to change way workers learn

The University for Industry has no campus or students and nor will it train people directly, yet it has an ambitious aim to improve the competitiveness of UK firms by changing the way people learn.

In its early stages the UFI will target small firms, which often do not have the time or resources to spend on training their staff. Companies will be encouraged to set up their own computer-based training centres so that employees can be taught in their workplace using CD-Roms, video links and the Internet, or allowed time off, for example, in lunchbreaks, to go to courses at a local training centre.

In autumn 2000, when the UFI is launched nationwide, it will not run courses itself but act as a broker, marketing courses and putting workers in touch with schemes at colleges, companies and even shopping centres or clubs. Where there are gaps it will commission new courses: It will set minimum standards and provide firms with benchmarks against which they can monitor the services they receive.

Last week the university's chairman, Lord Dearing, announced that the Government was committing £44 million to the UFI over the next two years and that by 2002 it hoped to be providing advice and information to 2.5 million people a year.

Lord Dearing, a former chairman of the Post Office who has also been a non-executive director of Whitbread and Prudential, said: "The Government has made clear that the UFI is the centrepiece of its strategy to create a learning society. We aim to create learning 'without walls' which is flexible and relevant to the needs of businesses and individuals."

To encourage small and medium-sized firms to take part, courses will be designed specially for them, covering everything from basic numeracy and literacy to advanced management skills. There is discussion of corporate membership, under which a profile will be built of a firm's requirements so that it can be informed of relevant courses taking place nearby.

Lord Dearing added: "It will be a challenge to get through to small firms. We recognise that businesses need to see immediate benefits. So we are taking advice from companies about what they want; business management courses, for example, have previously been designed with the large firm in mind."

The UFI wants to get away from the image that learning is all about public-sector institutions and is focusing on delivering a new, lighter style of learning, attractive to time-pressed business people.

Anne Wright, the UFI chief executive, said: "Learning centres will be close to where people work, while the affordable courses will be direct and to the point, in 'bite-sized chunks' and delivered in a relaxed, informative environment."

Bill Taylor, operations director of Precision Engineering Plastics, a manufacturing firm employing 28 people in North London, says that this new approach suited him when he attended a one-day Internet Web page design course, and an evening computer networking class, as part of a UFI pilot project at a local technology park. "I found the high-tech environment more conducive to learning and would have felt uncomfortable going back to a traditional classroom," he said.

Mr Taylor, who did not have to pay for the "taster" courses, said: "Money for training tends to be a little tight; it was only time I had to sacrifice. But this has been more than paid back as the Web pages that I learnt to construct have already generated inquiries and some sales."

The UFI will be based in Sheffield, but plans to reach small firms through intermediaries, including training and enterprise councils and trade associations. It will also encourage big firms to spread the word via supply chains.

In another UFI pilot project, BG Technology, the research arm of British Gas in Loughborough, has been working with smaller firms in its supply chain. It has invited suppliers to hour-long open evenings to discuss the advantages of training and the courses available in the area. It offers mentoring and is considering opening some of its internal training centres to smaller firms.

Greg Jones, manager of the project, said: "So much of our business is outsourced nowadays that it pays us in the long run to have access to well-trained people and generally improves the service we receive from all suppliers."

UFI organisers hope that demand for its services will also be driven by employees. The UFI may charge for brokerage or specialist guidance to businesses but basic skills courses to individuals will be free. People will be able to use the £150 credit from their individual learning account, which was announced in the Budget, towards a UFI course. Beyond this allowance, there will discounts of up 80 per cent for more courses. Employers will be able to contribute tax-free to their staff's accounts.

Brian Smith, the chief executive of Lite-On, an electronics manufacturer in Northumberland with a turnover of £30 million, has seen an enthusiastic take-up of training by his staff. Lite-On has a learning centre on site to which all 210 staff and their families have access. The centre, complete with ten computers that cost £11,000, is located near the cafeteria so that workers can save time by popping in during lunchbreaks and directly after their shifts.

"We have people in there doing everything from Maths GCSE to customer service courses and learning how to work spreadsheets," Mr Smith said. "We have seen a direct increase in the self-confidence and motivation of the workforce since we introduced the centre. Having staff with up-to-date skills and who are receptive to change will help us to achieve our targets of higher margins and turnover growth of 30 to 40 per cent year on year."

Over the next nine months the UFI will be busy commissioning products and issuing contracts to the first learning centres and people can expect a mainstream, hard-sell publicity campaign from spring 2000. However, a decision still needs to be made on its name. Research has shown that people are uncomfortable with the term university and a new consumer brand is expected to be announced in May. "Learning Direct", the name of the telephone helpline launched in January, is a hot favourite.

☐ *Learning Direct telephone helpline: 0800-100 900*

SIMON BROOKE-WEBB



Bill Taylor found that the new approach suited him when he attended a UFI pilot project

IN BRIEF

Part-time jobs aid recruiting

■ Part-time working is the key to the recruitment and retention of staff, according to a recent study by Gee Publishing. The business publisher surveyed 5,000 organisations in the UK to help other firms to formulate the most suitable flexible working practices for their company.

The survey, *Flexible Working*, analyses the effectiveness of practices such as part-time working, job-sharing, term-time working, teleworking, flexitime, career breaks and outsourcing. Almost 67 per cent of the businesses questioned indicated that flexible working was an effective means of improving staff retention, while over half said that it was an effective aid to recruitment. Part-time and flexitime were identified as the two most popular practices. Half the firms questioned used flexitime schemes, mainly for administrative and clerical roles, which they perceived as an effective way to reduce staff absence.

The report concludes that job-sharing will soon rise in importance; more than 40 per cent of respondents believed that it could significantly help their human resources strategy, while the same proportion felt that home-based teleworking was of less use. For a copy of the study, call 0171-393 7666.

■ **British Telecom has announced plans to bring the most sophisticated e-business applications, previously available only to large corporations because of high costs, to small and medium-sized firms. A new online rental service called BusinessManager will offer small firms "enterprise resource planning" (ERP) packages which handle complex activities such as payroll, sales-force automation, accounting, customer relations management and logistics. It is fully millennium-compliant and ready for introduction of the euro. For more information, call 0800 515585.**

■ Equifax and Yellow Pages have teamed up to offer small businesses a CD-Rom called *Business Select*, which helps them with their business-to-business marketing. Within the one CD-Rom there is financial information including performance and directors' details as well as contact details for 1.6 million businesses from sole traders to plcs. For more information, call 0845-609 0150.

■ Lloyds Bank is offering small businesses a free practical guide to help them to navigate the tough economic conditions. Each chapter of the guide highlights key areas that a small firm needs to examine and sets out a survival action plan to follow, helping them to anticipate problems and to be better prepared. For a copy, call 0800-056 0027.



Anthony Robb-John, owner of a chain of hairdressers called The Colville Group, based around Ramsgate, says small businesses need more time to comply with the minimum wage. He employs 12 people and has an annual turnover of £200,000.

"I agree in principle with the minimum wage, but the Government fails to understand that businesses like mine need to change their entire cost structure to cope. I simply cannot do this in the time.

"With such low margins, it will be virtually impossible to find the extra productivity to cover the new costs of paying my casual staff the minimum wage. I'll have to cut back on their hours. The minimum wage will be introduced in eight days' time and I have yet to receive a mail-out offering advice from the Government."



Robb-John: low margins

☐ *Any company wishing to express a view in Megaphone should contact In Business*

Small firms find safety and advice in numbers

Jackie Spray looks at what is on offer from four of Britain's business organisations

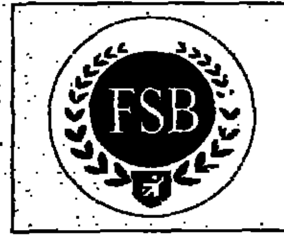
RUNNING a business can be a lonely, gruelling task, so the support offered through membership of one of the business organisations may come as welcome relief.

These organisations, of which the British Chambers of Commerce, the Institute of Directors, the Federation of Small Businesses and the Forum of Private Business are among the most established, have a representative role lobbying government on issues that concern small and medium-sized enterprises. They can also help companies with compliance problems on everything from late payment to employment law and offer counselling services. There are useful networking opportunities for company chiefs and often discounts on anything from water bills to health insurance.

As with any fee-based membership, value for money will depend on how often services are used.









Advice, discounts and networking are among the benefits of belonging to one of Britain's business organisations

☐☐☐

The British Chambers of Commerce are owned and run by their members. There are 60 chambers approved by the BCC, with more than 120,000 businesses represented. Membership fees are based on size of workforce; a sole trader pays £50, and a company with 50 staff pays £150 to £200, depending on the chamber. The main idea behind chambers is representation and networking, but, like the other bodies they also offer guidance on government policy and other issues. The BCC runs training courses for members, and overseas trade missions, and offers discounted services. Telephone bills are reduced, on average, by 20 per cent — after BT discounts — and there is 10 to 17 per cent off gas and electricity bills, plus money off retail insurance. A discounted digital signature service called ChamberSign is to be launched next month to encourage use of electronic commerce.

Contact: 0171-565 2000
www.bcc.org.uk

☐☐☐

The Institute of Directors has an annual fee of £187, and a joining fee of the same sum. Members receive free business information, research and counselling, access to a club in Pall Mall, London, a monthly copy of *Director* magazine, *IoD News*, business books, and the IoD Visa Gold Card — subject to status. They can use 16 UK airport VIP lounges whatever class of ticket is held. Members also have use of private meeting rooms at IoD centres, including an appointment service. There are discounts of about 20 per cent on corporate hospitality, hotels, travel services, business and personal loans, courses and conferences. Discounted personal indemnity insurance premiums start at £357. A helpline on employment law will be launched in April; calls of up to eight minutes will be free. New IoD premises have been opened in Leeds, and this month sees a new centre in Nottingham, followed in April by Edinburgh.

Contact: 0171-766 8888
www.iod.co.uk

☐☐☐

The Federation of Small Businesses charges a £20 joining fee and an annual fee based on staff size. A sole trader pays £60 a year, and a 50-employee firm £240. The federation has 130,000 members and is 25 years old this year. It has 31 regions, each with a full-time organiser running meetings. A 24-hour legal helpline had 70,000 calls last year. There are discounted premiums on life, medical and legal insurance. Members receive discounts on telephone bills of 15 to 38 per cent, an affinity credit card, factoring discounts of up to 17 per cent on service fees, and 50 per cent discounts on hotels and car hire.

Contact: 01253-720 911
www.fsb.org.uk

☐☐☐

The Forum of Private Business asks members to pay between £50 and £500 a year. The sum is left to the company's discretion, but it is recommended that it is in proportion to the workforce. The forum was set up in 1977 to give small firms a voice in Westminster and to balance big business interests. Its 25,000 members are offered a helpline for IT queries, a free health and safety audit, discounts of 15 to 20 per cent on company insurance and an average of £600 a year off water, gas and telephone bills. A general information helpline advises on everything from employment law to the euro. The FPB, which is preparing a commercial credit service, is based in Knutsford, Cheshire, with regional managers in London and the South East, the East and East Anglia, the Midlands and the North. It has set up in Scotland.

Contact: 01565 634467
www.fpb.co.uk

IN BUSINESS IS EDITED BY HENRIETTA LAKE
henrietta.lake@the-times.co.uk





David Beckham in action during his team's 3-1 win on Sunday. Beckham's three Fantasy points put him on 32 for the season. Photograph: Owen Humphreys, Allsport

A week to prepare for two £1,000 roll-over prizes

There are no matches being played in the FA Carling Premiership in the next seven days, but next week's Fantasy League page will publish player lists updated to include any new signings *made in the annual rush to beat the* transfer deadline.

Yesterday, for example, Blackburn Rovers completed the transfer of Lee Carsley, the Derby County midfield player, and it is unlikely that he will be the last player to move to a Premiership club.

Newcastle United also confirmed their interest in Dean Richards, the highly-rated Wolverhampton Wanderers central defender, while Leeds United seem to have joined Middlesbrough at the head of the queue of clubs hoping to bring Juninho, the Brazil international midfield player, back to Britain from Atlético Madrid. Expect some new names from home and abroad to *appear in the lists.*

We will also announce the name of the winner of the £1,000 monthly *prize for March, following one of the* closest races yet, with two teams finishing on an identical number of points.

□ The winner of the ON-Target prize of £500 based on the numbers we publish today will be announced in a fortnight. So if your team's total *points score, based on the updated* player lists (right) comes to either 4 or 6, follow the instructions opposite and you could be a winner.

The following weekend is Easter. On Easter Tuesday, we will be publishing the usual two Fantasy League pages, to cover games played *on Easter Saturday.*

Since there will be no weekly prize next week, the weekly winner based on those games will receive a roll-over prize of £1,000. Points gained in games played on Easter Monday will be reflected in the player lists printed the week after.

The ON-Target winner based on the numbers printed on Easter Tuesday day will also receive a roll-over prize of £1,000.

□ From the Fantasy League point of view, last weekend was not a *particularly high-scoring one, with* eight points, accrued by Matt Jansen of Blackburn Rovers and Chelsea's Tore Andre Flo *the best individual* performances.

Even so, Phil Clarke, our overall *leader in the race for the £50,000 Times* Fantasy League first prize, managed to maintain his 16-point advantage at the top of the leaderboard.

His team, Shabadi United, scored only nine points, but James Kerr, in second place before the weekend, did *even less spectacularly: his team,* Serious Squad, scored only seven. This allowed Sarabjot Kohli, the youth league leader, to take second place in the overall rankings by amassing 12 points.

It may be worth noting that the top two teams share four players: Michael Ball, Sol Campbell, Harry Kewell and Dwight Yorke.

Campbell is benefiting from the tightening up of the Tottenham defence under George Graham. Ball *shares* the number three spot among full-backs with Celestine Babayaro and Nigel Winterburn, while Kewell is the top-scoring midfield player; Yorke, of course, is the top overall points scorer in the Fantasy League lists as well as the number one forward.

□ *For legal reasons, The Times* Fantasy League is no longer able to accept entries from players under 18 years of age. Players 17 years and younger who are already registered in the main and youth leagues will, however, be allowed to remain in the competition.



PRIZES

- **£50,000** *to the top Fantasy League manager, plus a trip for two to the European Cup final*
- **£10,000** *to the runner-up*
- **£5,000** *for third place*
- **£1,000** *monthly prizes: eight prizes of £1,000, plus £100 of Puma sports equipment*
- **£500** *weekly prizes: 36 prizes of £500, plus £100 of Puma sports equipment*
- **£1,000** *youth prize, plus monthly prizes of a Premiership football shirt*
- *£500 weekly On-Target prize*

As I was saying . . .

There are no games that affect the Fantasy League next weekend, then.

No FA Carling Premiership games, if that's what you mean, but I think a major international could affect some of the players. They might get *injured, or play brilliantly* and gain a lot of confidence, or make a howler and lose their form. You never know.

I suppose you're right, but it doesn't affect me very much; I haven't got many England players in any of my teams.

But lots of other players are representing their various *countries, so you'll be in the* same position as real club managers, hoping that their players finish the weekend in one piece.

Now you've got me worried, especially with the busy Easter weekend coming up in a fortnight's time: two games in two days for most teams.

***You might have to do some* nifty transfer dealing after the first set of fixtures: if you've got any transfers left, that is.**

Oh yes, plenty. I've been saving them up for when I really need them.

It's getting a bit late in the season for that, wouldn't you say?

Well, I certainly want to wait until after Thursday's transfer deadline in the real world, just to see what the flesh and blood managers are thinking. And some foreign talent might come into the lists.

Or even some players from the Nationwide League.

That's a good point. Have you got any hot tips?

Well, there's always talk of Robbie Keane leaving Wolves, and Lee Hughes didn't play for West Brom on Saturday, which some people have taken as being highly significant. Two talented goalscorers that a *lot of Premiership teams* would love to have.

Middlesbrough have been linked with both of them, haven't they?

Middlesbrough are linked with virtually every expensive player that becomes available. But if you've already got a Boro player in your Fantasy *team, you'd have to transfer* him out before you could sign either of them — *if* they went to the Riverside, that is.

Ah, because when players move between Premiership clubs, they are still counted as playing for their original clubs, but new arrivals from the Nationwide won't be.

Exactly; *although my personal opinion is that neither* Keane nor Hughes is suitable for Boro.

Not good enough?

Not foreign enough.



HOW TO ENTER YOUR FANTASY LEAGUE TEAM

Select a team of 11 Premiership players from those listed right. The total value of your team must not exceed £50m and you cannot choose more than one player from the same Premiership *club. Your team must be in a 4-4-2 formation with:* one goalkeeper; two full-backs; two centre-backs; four midfielders; and two forwards.

TO ENTER BY POST Name your team on the entry form, left, in no more than 16 characters. Enter the correct three-digit player codes from the list, right, followed by the players' names. Enter the first three characters of each player's team *under the heading* CLUB, *ie,* LEE *for Leeds.* Also enter the value of each player shown on the list right. Add up the values of the 11 players in your team and make sure the total does not exceed £50m. Send your entry to the address shown, with a cheque/PO for £2.50 (£10 sterling outside UK or RoI) or your credit-card details. You will get *confirmation of your team and your personal* identity number (PIN) on receipt of your entry form. Readers under 18 should seek parental permission before entering. They must state their date of birth and indicate if they wish to enter our Youth League.

LUCKY DIP If you would like us to select a team at random for you, please tick the Lucky Dip box *on the entry form. Postal entries only.*

TO ENTER BY PHONE Call 0640 67 88 99 (+44 870 901 4209 outside the UK) using a touch-tone (DTMF) phone and when prompted tap in your 11 three-digit player codes. You will be asked to give the name of your team (no more than 16 characters). You will then be given a 10-digit PIN, *make sure you write this down and keep it safe to* be able to check your team's progress and make transfers. Calls last about seven minutes. 0640 calls are 60p per minute. Calls from outside the UK are charged at national rates. Calls from *payphones cost* approximately double.



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Promoter: News Promotions Ltd, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XY

THE TIMES MAIN FANTASY LEAGUE ENTRY FORM

Submit your entry as soon as possible to maximise your point-scoring opportunities

FANTASY TEAM NAME (up to 16 characters)

LUCKY DIP If you wish to have your team selected by us at random, tick box □

CODE	GOALKEEPER NAME	CLUB	VALUE
CODE	FULL-BACK NAME	CLUB	VALUE
CODE	FULL-BACK NAME	CLUB	VALUE
CODE	CENTRE-BACK NAME	CLUB	VALUE
CODE	CENTRE-BACK NAME	CLUB	VALUE
CODE	MIDFIELDER NAME	CLUB	VALUE
CODE	MIDFIELDER NAME	CLUB	VALUE
CODE	MIDFIELDER NAME	CLUB	VALUE
CODE	MIDFIELDER NAME	CLUB	VALUE
CODE	FORWARD NAME	CLUB	VALUE
CODE	FORWARD NAME	CLUB	VALUE

MAXIMUM OF ONE PLAYER PER PREMIERSHIP TEAM — TOTAL VALUE (MAX £50m) £

I also wish to enter the Youth League (please tick) □

I was under 18 on August 15, 1998. Date of birth

First Name ______ Surname ______

Address ______

Postcode ______ Daytime tel ______

Cheque/PO no (payable to: Times Newspapers Ltd) ______

Credit card number: ______ Expiry date: __/__

MasterCard □ Visa □ Name on card ______

Signature ______

Send with £2.50 entry fee (£10 sterling for entrants outside the UK or RoI) to: The Times Fantasy League, Abacus House, Dudley St, Luton, Beds LU1 1ZZ.

1. On which days do you usually buy The Times? □ Monday □ Tuesday □ Wednesday □ Thursday □ Friday □ Saturday □ Don't usually buy The Times

2. Which other national daily newspaper(s) do you buy at least once a week?

3. Which Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy almost always (3-4 copies per month)?

4. Which Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy quite often (1-2 copies per month)?

If you do not wish to receive other offers from Times Newspapers Limited, please tick box □

FANTASY LEAGUE SERVICES

Use these numbers for all the information you need:

CHECKLINE
To check your team's standing
0640 625 102
(ex-UK +44 870 901 4292)

TRANSFER LINE
To alter your team
0640 625 103
(ex-UK +44 870 901 4293)
0640 calls cost 60p per minute (ex UK numbers charge at national rates)

FAXBACK
A comprehensive update sheet
0991 123 720
(ex-UK +44 870 901 4280)

SUPER LEAGUE FAXBACK
A brand new service
0991 123 721
(ex-UK +44 870 901 4279)
Faxbacks cost £1 per minute (ex UK numbers charged at national rates)

HELPLINE
for any queries
01582 702720

CHOOSE YOUR PLAYERS FROM HERE

Columns show: code, name, club, weekly points, total points, valuation(m).

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Club	Weekly	Total	Value
102	D Seaman	ARS	3	37	3.7
146	A Manninger	ARS	0	12	3.4
139	M Bosnich	AST	-2	9	3.2
140	M Oakes	AST	0	1	2.9
144	A Rachel	AST	0	-1	2.6
108	J Filan	BLA	0	-7	2.8
126	A Fettis	BLA	0	6	2.5
127	T Flowers	BLA	0	-3	3.1
104	S Ilic	CHA	0	-11	2.3
105	M Salmon	CHA	0	0	2.2
106	A Petterson	CHA	0	-1	2.2
134	S Royce	CHA	0	10	2.2
137	D Kharine	CHE	0	0	2.9
138	E De Goey	CHE	3	31	3.2
107	S Ogrizovic	COV	0	-1	2.4
117	M Hedman	COV	-1	-4	2.6
103	R Hoult	DER	0	4	2.3
153	M Poom	DER	-3	6	2.5
112	P Gerrard	EVE	0	0	2.4
114	S Simonsen	EVE	0	0	2.7
118	T Myhre	EVE	-2	17	2.6
113	N Martyn	LEE	0	20	3.1
125	P Robinson	LEE	0	4	2.7
123	K Keller	LEI	0	5	2.9
124	P Arphexad	LEI	0	1	2.6
122	B Friedel	LIV	0	-1	3.3
131	D James	LIV	0	3	3.3
116	P Schmeichel	MAN	0	14	4.0
121	R Van Der Gouw	MAN	0	4	3.5
109	M Schwarzer	MID	0	11	2.7
110	B Roberts	MID	0	0	2.4
111	M Beresford	MID	0	-3	2.5
141	S Given	NEW	-1	8	3.0
142	L Perez	NEW	0	0	2.7
143	S Harper	NEW	0	2	2.5
119	D Beasant	NOT	0	-24	2.7
120	M Crossley	NOT	-1	3	2.6
136	K Pressman	SHE	0	7	2.5
149	M Clarke	SHE	0	0	2.2
150	P Srnicek	SHE	0	5	2.3
147	N Moss	SOU	0	-2	2.2
148	P Jones	SOU	3	-6	2.4
128	I Walker	TOT	0	15	2.8
154	H Segers	TOT	0	0	2.4
155	E Baardsen	TOT	0	3	2.6
129	C Forrest	WES	0	0	2.5
130	S Hislop	WES	-3	8	2.7
132	N Sullivan	WIM	-2	-3	2.5
135	P Heald	WIM	0	0	2.3

FULL BACKS

CENTRE BACKS

MIDFIELDERS

FORWARDS

Flo's double brings joy to Sutton

Two goals from Chelsea's Norway striker helped Billy Boys to clinch this week's Fantasy League prize of £500 with 26 points

Chelsea are back. Not that they had ever been very far away — but the 3-0 victory at Villa Park on Sunday announced that their challenge for the FA Carling Premiership was very much on track once again.

With Leeds United overtaking them on Saturday, and Villa on the sort of bad run that was bound to end sometime, Chelsea could have been forgiven a wary, safety-first performance; instead, they produced a display that Gianluca Vialli, the Chelsea manager, described as one of their best of the season.

It was surely no coincidence that the match also marked the return to Premiership scoring form of Tore Andre Flo, the Norway international, who netted the first and third goals (either side of a Bjarne Goldbaek effort), both of which demonstrated a high degree of skill as well as a sureness of touch unusual in a forward player of his height (6' 4").

First he outpaced Gareth Southgate before dragging the ball back past the England defender and hitting a shot wide of Mark Bosnich. His second goal saw him time his run to perfection before touching the ball beyond Bosnich and scoring on the turn. No surprise, then, that the 25-year-old, who was signed from Brann and also played for Tromso, is our Fantasy player of the week.

Flo was sidelined for seven weeks with a knee injury in January and February but he scored against Valerenga on Thursday and against Villa he looked back to his best.

Vialli said: "It's quite normal when you have an injury for a few weeks for someone to take a while to get back in form. We knew that, so we weren't too worried about Tore Andre's performances so far. He responded very well today. He's fully confident now, which is very good for the foreseeable future.

"We're a team which likes to play passing football, nice football, so we need somebody to put the ball in the back of the net as often as possible.

"Gianfranco Zola had three or four chances today, as did Tore, so that shows we played well and the creative play of our strikers was very good as well. Looking at the way they played today, I think they're in very good form."

"We want to stay up there and fight for the title so this was very important for us after two home defeats," Flo said.

"We have not scored much lately. This was good for us and we can build from here. This was much better than we have played before. We still want to fight for the title."

Flo's two goals brought him six Fantasy League points, and his assist for Goldbaek's strike makes a total of eight, which helped Billy Boys, the team chosen by William Tsang, of Sutton, Surrey, to take this week's £500 prize (plus £100 worth of sports equipment) for the Fantasy team of the week.



Billy Boys

Player	Points
D Seaman (ARS)	3
C Powell (CHA)	0
I Harte (LEE)	3
M Elliott (LEI)	0
I Pearce (WES)	3
R Lee (NEW)	0
A Nielsen (TOT)	0
M Hughes (WIM)	2
D Beckham (MAN)	3
D Yorke (AST)	4
T A Flo (CHE)	8

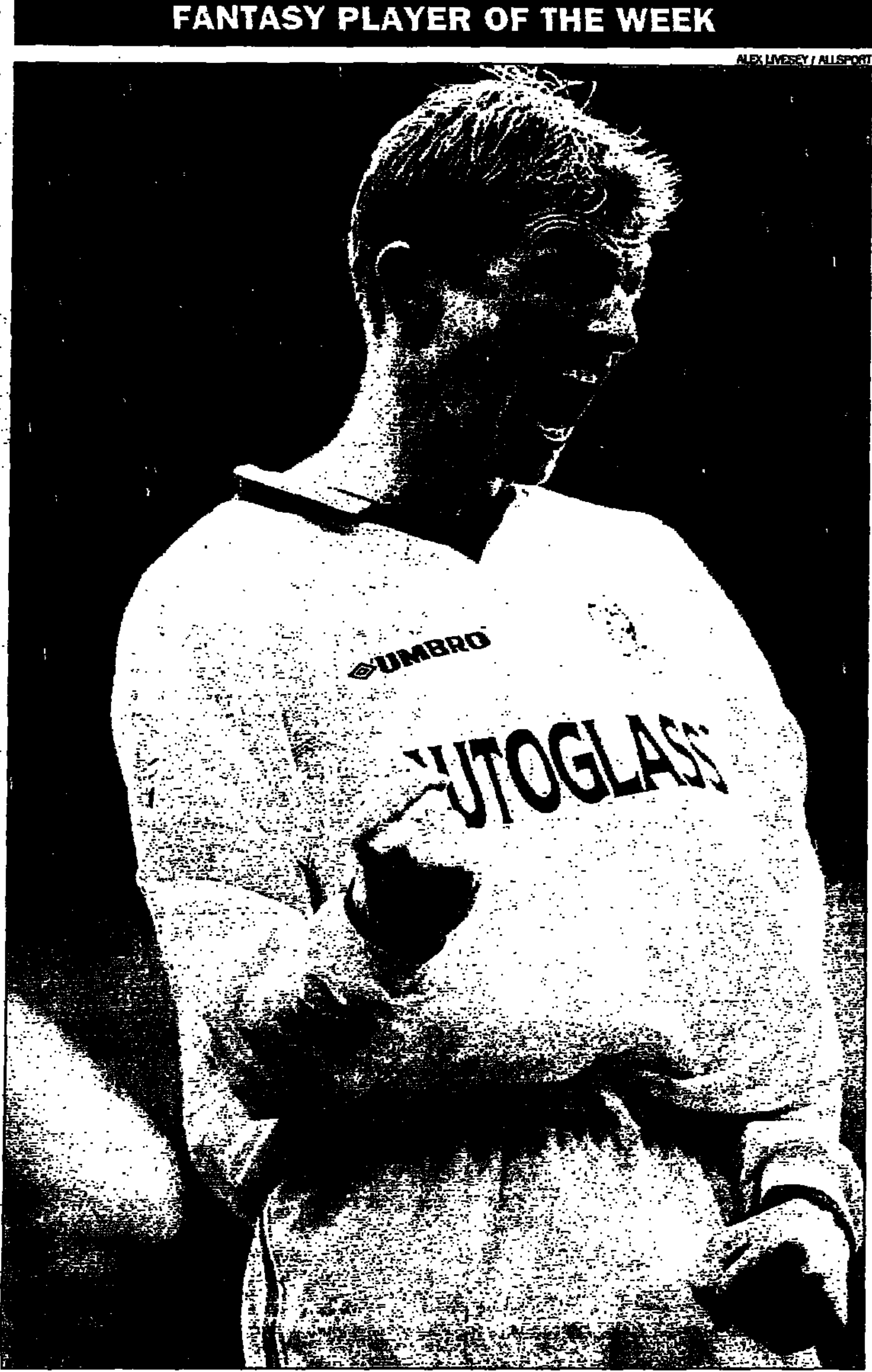
Total points: 26

Dwight Yorke's two assists and David Beckham's free-kick goal in the Manchester United v Everton match on Sunday were worth another seven points, while clean sheets for Arsenal and West Ham meant three points each for David Seaman and Ian Pearce, a recent Fantasy player of the week. Ian Harte weighed in with another three, thanks to a curling long range effort against Derby County scored with his right foot, which is his wrong foot, if you see what we mean.

William, who attends St Dunstan's school in Sutton, will be especially pleased that the other two points came from Wimbledon's Michael Hughes, who was the second name on the team sheet after Beckham: the Tsang family are season ticket holders at Selhurst Park. "He chose Beckham first and then Hughes," Mr Tsang's father, Kin, said, "and then built the team around three or four key players."

FANTASY PLAYER OF THE WEEK

ALEX LIVESEY / ALLSPORT



Tore of strength: Tore Andre Flo, Chelsea's Norway international striker, celebrated his return from a seven-week spell on the injured list with a goal in Europe last Thursday, and two more and an assist against Villa on Sunday — worth a total of eight Fantasy League points to those who go with Flo

FANTASY LEAGUE TOP 100

1	Phil Clarke	Shabadi United	357
2	Sarabjot Kohli	Junglemen	341
3	James Kerr	Serious Squad	339
4	Phil Tusler	Peter 7	331
5	Mark Coles	Joe Public	329
5	Mike Shipley	Minor Threat	329
7	Brian Payne	Cosmopolitan In	328
7	David Young	Dave 10	328
7	Robert Little	Broken Arrow	328
10	Michael Matejtschuk	Bandidos Darsene	327
11	David Tilley	Tilley FC	325
12	Lucy Crosthwaite	I Hate Football	324
12	John Lofthouse	Solid At The Bac	324
12	Phil Tusler	Pin-Ups 7	324
15	Jennifer Cockburn	Yeah Right!	322
16	Kevin Styles	Olivianewtonjohn	321
16	Robin Harrington	Chequers Champs	321
16	David Wise	Walsall Reserves	321
16	Peter Leathem	Spike Town	321
20	Jason Wynne	Taffys Terrors	320
20	Mark Gayler	Third Time Lucky	320
20	Darren Sawyer	Finchleyallstars	320
20	Nicholas Keighley	These Eat Beans	320
20	Tim Gardner	Harchester Who?	320
25	David Edmondson	Edmo Utd Mington	319
26	Alan Featherstone	Lariarsdipsyteam	318
26	Carol Flint	The Baggage Boys	318
28	Colin Head	Headstart Gunard	317
28	Allan Purdy	Als Bandits	317
28	John Humphreys	Academicals	317
28	David Mead	In The City	317
28	Tom Summers	Ganichou	317
33	Matthew O'Neil	The M Team	316
33	John White	Fusegear	316
33	Michael Scaife	Allidoiswash&go	316
36	Thomas Bailey	Rural Raiders	315
36	C Sharpe	Sunfish Stars	315
36	Henrietta Ball	Henri & Goals UU	315
39	Andrew James Spencer	This One's Mine	314
39	Richard Deane	On The Wagon	314
39	Jwalant Popat	Popat's Army	314
42	Robert Anderson	Robert's Rovers	313
42	Don Baxter	Don's Diamonds	313
42	Neil Bradbrook	Chapeltown Elite	313
45	Mike Shipley	Minor Threat 15	312
45	Tony Fidler	Real Dataman	312
47	John Green	Chicken Chasers	311
47	Sarosh Daruwala	Scorch	311
47	Geoff Clarke	Clarkie's Kickers	311
47	Scott Brett	Scotts Stars	311
51	Ron Allport	Cyclones	310
51	Steven Wallis	Team Stevo	310
51	Raymond George	Razor D	310
51	Philip Morton	Skilli Vanili	310
51	Iain Anderson	The Odd Squad	310
51	Paul O'Neill	Four Four Two	310
51	John Miner	Melodymaker	310
51	Simon Lowe	Janices Heroes	310
51	Mike Truran	Tigger United	310
60	Gordon Crutchley	Super Saddlers B	309
61	Andy Georgia	Misty's Magic Te	308
61	Claire Barber	Super Spurs	308
61	Nathan Carroll	Nath's Champs	308
64	Stuart Rutter	Spitonthevilla	307
64	Mandy Adamson	Man(dy) United	307
64	Jo Tinning-Clowes	The Future's Red	307
64	Bradley Woodbridge	The Business	307
64	Stephen Trup	Winners	307
64	James Muir	James Mulrauders	307
64	Matthew Watson	Matts Magic	307
64	L Samuels	Spartak Mossley	307
72	Donald Gordon	The Penshers	306
72	Chris Wallis	Wallys Wonders 2	306
72	Philip Hill	Poshes Babies	306
72	James Walsh	Tigers Argyle	306
72	Angela Whitfield	Westcountry Woo5	306
77	Henry Cosgrove	Top Class Reject	305
77	Joseph Barkley	Joren United	305
77	Tim McNab	He B G Bees	305
77	J Prissell	Grand Pan Pizza	305
77	Marc Meyer	Cool Dudes Utd	305
77	Dominic Quibell	Doms Demons	305
77	Rod Petrovic	Roddys Rovers	305
84	Christopher Vanezis	Aladin's Army	304
84	Miles Ambler	Mil Stars	304
84	Peter Coltman	Just A Bods Team	304
84	Andrew Caldwell	Winner City	304
84	Steve Ongeri	Lokomotiv No Go	304
84	Peter Donnelly	Goals 'R Us	304
84	Stephen Beales	Croft Rangers	304
84	Rajiv Kothari	Milleniumbuggers	304
92	Chris Coles	Inter Radicchio	303
92	Donald Murray	Murrays Marvels	303
92	Paula Baxter	Baxters Babes	303
92	Terry Bullen	El Tel's Revenge	303
92	Tony Murnaghan	Destiny	303
92	George Millington	Survivors 6	303
92	Chris Barwick	Owen Shmowen	303
92	Nigel Byrne	Nigel's Team	303
100	John Mell	Melton United	302

Plus seven others on 100 points

So your team is terrible? You can still win £1,000 next month

With no games next weekend, the prize for ON-Target in a fortnight's time will be a rollover bonanza of £1,000. Don't forget!

Congratulations to Rob Mitchell of Hatfield the main winner of ON-Target this week, who finds herself £500 richer and possessor of an EA Sports Pack. Fourteen other managers have also managed to win themselves excellent prizes.

Even if you do not have a Fantasy League team, you can enter this new game now — or enter a new one simply for ON-Target. All managers have the chance to win a share of £28,000 of new prizes. *The Times* has teamed up with EA Sports to offer you the chance to own the renowned *FIFA 99* game. Every week you have the chance to win:

- 1st Prize: £500 plus an EA Sports Pack
- 4 runners up: EA Sports Packs
- 10 additional runners up: Fifa 99 CD-Rom.

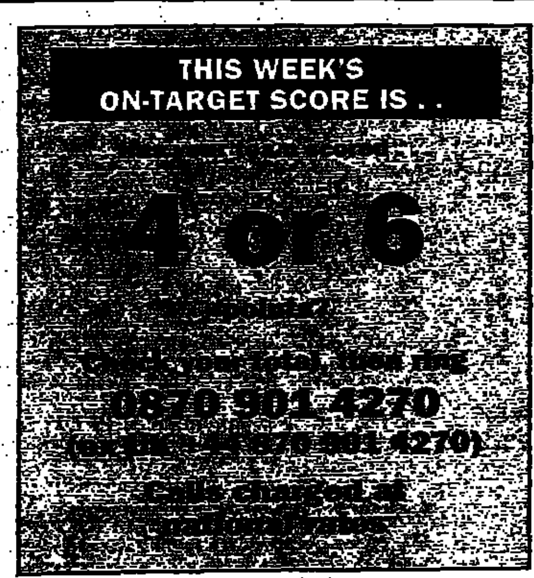
Each EA Sports Pack contains: FIFA '99 for the Playstation; FIFA '99 for the PC; EA Sports T-Shirt, key ring and mini football plus a record bag.

IF YOU already have a team in the main game, then you're ready to play ON-Target. Simply check your Fantasy League players' score each week and see if their total is the same as our ON-Target score shown here each Tuesday. If you have scored the exact target points, a quick call to our ON-Target winners' line (national rate call) will put you in the draw to win one of the 15 prizes.

The ON-Target score may be high or low. There could be more than one score (such as today). It could be a minus score. So it's worth checking your performance every week.

Just have your PIN number handy to call the winners line on:

0870 901 4270



If you don't have a team, or want to sign up another one, enter now by filling in the entry form. There are no limits to how many teams you enter. Not only could you win the ON-Target prizes, but you could win the main game weekly (£500) or monthly (£1,000) prizes.



HOW TO ENTER: Look up your players' weekly point scores opposite and add them up, or call the checkline 0640 625 102. If your total score for this week matches the ON-Target number(s), then call our claim line on **0870 901 4270** (calls charged at national rate should last about a minute). Claims must be made before midnight on Sunday night. The lines then close until the next game starts on Tuesday morning.

If you have scored the correct number of points AND called the claim line, you go into the draw. Just look in the paper on the following Tuesday to see if you have won.

Managers with the correct points who have *not* called the claim line will not be entered. Calls that are incomplete, inaudible or invalid will not be entered. All teams in the draw must conform to the main game rules.





Winners

This week's winners are: Rob Mitchell of Hatfield (£500 plus EA Sports Pack); **Colin Hargreaves** of Wallasey, **Elaine Newman** of Enfield, **Geoff Broadley** of Accrington, **Ann Wilde** of Sonning (EA Sports Packs); **David Hunter** of Maldon, **J Hunt** of Hailsham, **Alan Tilling** of Ramsey, **Bill Hirons** of Oldham, **Steve Dredge** of Bath, **Amy Fellows** of Welwyn Garden City, **J Woodhouse** of Liskeard, **Jeremy Bayliss** of Stanford-le-Hope, **John Morgan** of Hexham and **Peter Tricky** of Sutton Coalfield (Fifa 99 CD-Roms).

FANTASY LEAGUE QUIZ





Here is another gentle teaser to while away a few moments of your frantic day as a Fantasy League manager. Last week, we showed you Brian Deane (Middlesbrough), Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink (Leeds), David Howells (Southampton) and Geoff Thomas (Nottingham Forest), the only players to score against Arsenal in a league match at Highbury this season.

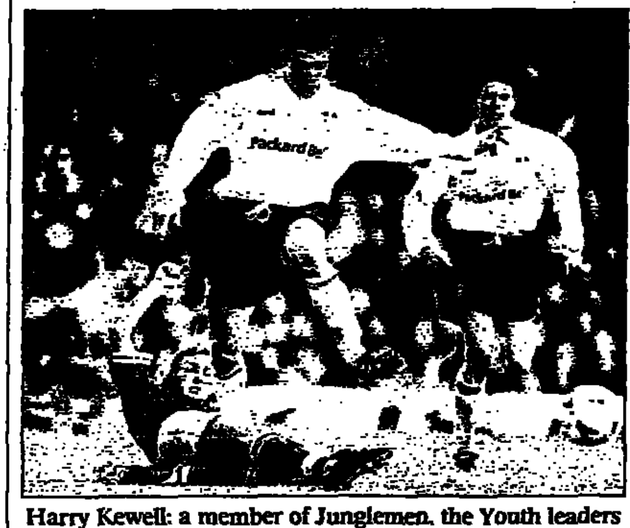
What do this week's quartet of winners have in common?



CHECK YOUR SCORES TELEPHONE 0640 62 51 02

YOUTH LEAGUE LEADERBOARD

1	Sarabjot Kohli	Junglemen	341
2	Tom Summers	Ganichou	317
3	Matthew O'Neil	The M Team	316
4	Henrietta Ball	Henri & Goals UU	315
5	Jwalant Popat	Popat's Army	314
6	Robert Anderson	Robert's Rovers	313
7	Claire Barber	Super Spurs	308
8	Stuart Rutter	Spitonthevilla	307
8	Matthew Watson	Matts Magic	307
10	James Griffiths	Griffs Eleven	302
11	Daniel Lewis	It's A Puppet!	301
11	John Young	Noteamname	301
13	Graham Booth	Manchester City	297



Harry Kewell: a member of Junglemen, the Youth leaders

Young guns running low on ammo

THE ENGLISH Premiership is often regarded as one of the most stamina-sapping leagues of the world and the long and gruelling campaign is certainly having a detrimental effect on some of the younger players, much to the cost of many managers in The Times Fantasy League.

After contributing a healthy 14 points in the first three months of his Fantasy League campaign, Lee Hendrie of Aston Villa has only been able to muster a solitary assist in the three months that have followed.

Not only have his usual array of accurate passing going off the boil, but Hendrie has also been hit by disciplinary problems and faces his second ban of the season immediately after the international break.

Several weeks ago John Gregory identified the fact that the hectic schedule was not bringing the best out of Hendrie, so he gave the youngster the opportunity of a break in the Caribbean. However, apart from a sun-tan it appears that he has not benefited too much as a result of the holiday.

Hendrie's team mate, Gareth Barry, the central defender, has also suffered a decline in form after an impressive opening spell of the season. Although Villa's defensive slump may well be related to the loss of Ugo Ehiogu, Barry's own form of late also has to be questioned to the extent that you wonder whether he will even make the team when Ehiogu eventually returns from his eye injury.

There have been several youngsters who were hot property for several weeks earlier on in the season, only now to be distinctly forgotten figures. The likes of Paul Dalglish, Joe Cole and Mikkel Forssell all showed glimpses of talent before they bowed out of first team contention, with no sign of an imminent return to favour.

One man that certainly appears to get the best out of his youngsters is Leeds boss David O'Leary. He rotates Alan Smith in and out of the team with maximum effect, often forcing Harry Kewell to push up into attack, allowing the young Australian to cement his place at the top of the Fantasy League midfield leaderboard.

However, this could be the time to release the youngsters in your Fantasy League team in favour of some experience, but don't make the mistake of turning to Southampton's wily campaigner, Mark Hughes, for some much needed points. With no goals and just one assist from 24 games this season, Sparky just isn't cut out for this Fantasy League business!

MATT SIMS

TRANSFER LINE

Want to make one of your 12 transfers?
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NEWS

Bid to stop release of IRA men

■ Jack Straw enraged Irish republicans at a crucial stage in the peace process last night by challenging the imminent release of four IRA prisoners.

They include Patrick Magee, the Brighton bomber who tried to kill Baroness Thatcher's Cabinet. The Home Secretary successfully sought a judicial hearing which will be held this morning to prevent the release of the men from Maze prison......Page 1

BBC surrenders to ITV in ratings war

■ The BBC in effect bowed out of the populist ratings war with ITV yesterday, signalling a return to its traditional strengths of popular science, quality drama and natural history. It unveiled a new spring and summer schedule of programmes with a stronger emphasis on serious factual programmes, education and drama.......Pages 1, 3

Nato airstrikes loom

President Clinton gave Slobodan Milosevic his last chance to agree to a Kosovo peace deal and escape Nato airstrikes, but the Yugoslav leader's regime seemed set on a course for confrontation with the West..........Pages 1, 11

Trade war intensifies

The United States opened a new flank in its trade war with Europe by threatening punitive tariffs on $900 million of agricultural exports from Europe in retaliation against a ban on US hormone-treated beef..........Page 1

Royal home for sale

The Surrey mansion bought for the Duchess of York by the Queen was yesterday put on the market for £1.5 million..........Page 1

Police secrets lifted

Victims of crime will be able to scrutinise how officers investigate burglaries and assaults under plans to lift the secrecy shrouding police work..........Page 2

No end to truck chaos

Lorry drivers are threatening to block ports and motorways in a major escalation of a protest campaign which caused traffic chaos in central London..........Page 4

New year baby fears

Couples trying to conceive a baby to be born early in the new millennium run an increased risk of complications during birth, consultants warn..........Page 5

Oscar loves the Bard

It was a night of triumph for Britain at the Oscars but as the hangovers wore off, work resumed on the films that aim to repeat that success next year..........Pages 6, 7

Green sites protected

Tougher rules on housing developments in the countryside will be unveiled by the Government as part of measures to protect greenfield sites..........Page 9

Blair means business

Thousands of business mentors will be drafted into inner-city schools to help to overcome a culture of "fatalism and failure" which is driving middle-class parents away from state education, Tony Blair said..........Page 10

100 dead in Borneo

More than 100 people have been killed on Borneo Island in ethnic clashes among Indonesians in which warriors have paraded the organs of their victims....Page 12

Scandals rock France

A spate of scandals involving sex, fraud and nepotism has catapulted France into a struggle between Gallic flamboyance and northern European rectitude..........Page 13

Euthanasia trial

Jack Kevorkian, the euthanasia campaigner, went on trial for murder after he was seen by millions on US television administering a lethal solution of drugs to a terminally ill man..........Page 14

Scientists solve male snoring puzzle

Men are more likely to snore because the male neck is more muscular, say scientists. Snoring is caused by soft tissue collapsing and obstructing the airways, forcing the sleeper to breathe heavily to force them open. Logically, women should snore more because they have more body fat, and it has been a mystery why they generally sleep more quietly than men....Page 5



Abandoned since the 1930s, the Grade II listed Brixton Windmill is being restored to its former glory and could soon house a theatre group

Bank payoff: Martin Taylor, the former chief executive of Barclays, received a £1.6 million payoff last year, bringing his total pay package to £2.5 million..........Page 27

Economy slows: Britain's economy slowed close to a standstill in the last quarter of 1998, reviving City hopes that the Bank of England will cut interest rates........Page 27

Property bid: Greycoat, the London property developer, put itself up for sale just hours after it had received a £218 million hostile bid from Delancey Estates, a rival property company..........Page 27

Markets: The FTSE 100 index fell 10.4 to 6152.8. The pound fell .13 cents to $1.6279 and rose .08p to 66.99p against the euro. The sterling index rose to 103.0......Page 30

Football: The temporary England coach Kevin Keegan may be forced to select an inexperienced midfield for the Euro 2000 qualifying match against Poland after injuries hit his squad..........Page 52

Motor sport: Colin McRae, the leading British motor rallying driver, is to test his talent with the Stewart Ford Formula One motor racing team..........Page 52

Cricket: Darren Gough, who was an outstanding performer for England on their winter tour of Australia, was named Cornhil England player of the year..........Page 48

Rugby union: The RFU has told the first division clubs that they must accept places in next season's European Cup or the union will nominate England's entrants....Page 49

Fair isle: In Barbados the Australian pop singer Kylie Minogue makes a good fist of her first Shakespeare role as a non-singing Miranda in a creditable musical version of *The Tempest*..........Page 36

Mother Africa: The faithful flock to the Festival Hall to hear the South African icon Miriam Makeba deliver the best of the old and the new in a voice still imposing..........Page 36

American movies: In our weekly look at the hottest new US cinema releases, Clint Eastwood acts his age as a rogue newspaperman in *True Crime*..........Page 37

Live flesh: The middle-aged Meat Loaf may play it a lot safer these days, but in Dublin he shows that he can still deliver an extravagant rock'n'roll spectacular.......Page 38

A storyteller's life: The writer Bruce Chatwin was a man of contradictions: a devoted husband and an active homosexual, reveals Nicholas Shakespeare in his biography..........Pages 16, 17

Mother's courage: A 17-year-old boy, thought to be brain-dead, has survived against all odds. Moira Petty reports..........Page 15

Bulger case: How should society deal with children who kill? Last week's ruling in the case of Robert Thompson and Jon Venables is likely to lead to a reconsideration of the way we sentence children in the criminal courts..........Page 39

Under threat: Frances Gibb looks at the lawyers who put their lives on the line..........Page 41

The mass resignation of all 20 members of the European Commission is probably the most dramatic crisis the European Union has faced. The story behind the story, however, may be of even greater consequence. The driving force in the resignations was the European Parliament — an institution long dismissed by Europeans as toothless and ignored by Americans as irrelevant. Now it has emerged as an important new political actor in Europe.

The New York Times



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **INTERFACE**
In our new technology supplement: why not take the nightclub home with you?

■ **HOMES**
Cash compensation for the victims of cowboy builders

Preview: *Close Up* (BBC2, 9.30pm) profiles the author J.D. Salinger. **Review:** Joe Joseph on the *HMS Bounty* mutineers.......Pages 50, 51

Class politics

Mr Blair's real challenge lies with those who will charge that his blueprint is "divisive" and that it undermines the core principles upon which comprehensive education should be structured..........Page 19

Primakov rules

To many international bankers, Mr Primakov is a Lubyanka-trained Oliver who ought surely not dare ask for more after last August's default..........Page 19

Beyond Patagonia

In 1977 when *In Patagonia* appeared under the little known name of Bruce Chatwin, travel writing was already an art at which the British seemed to excel......Page 19

PETER RIDDELL

Within days, if not hours, British planes and missiles are likely to be part of a major Nato military action against Serbia. But there has been virtually no public or parliamentary discussion of the case for action, the risks involved and what might be achieved..........Page 10

LIBBY PURVES

Once a week, at least, in all media we are forced to walk a penitential route, as if "education" were a debilitating plague rather than a gateway to glory..........Page 18

FRANK FIELD

The Government needs to back its tough talk with action to see that benefit fraud is banished for good. The best way to ensure that a person is whom they claim to be is by DNA testing..........Page 18

SHEILA LAWLOR

Public appointments should be submitted to proper scrutiny. The great and good would find that they had another master to answer to; Parliament and its electorate.......Page 18

Sir Michael Caine, former chairman of Booker; Alfred Schlee, music publisher; Sir Edward Playfair, permanent secretary in Ministry of Defence 1960-61.......Page 21

Kosovo; legal aid loss; Hollywood; hallmarks; Europe elections; price comparisons; tuition..........Page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,058

ACROSS

1 Covered in mud thus, I played initially (6).
5 Computer's essential, therefore, with newspaper articles (8).
9 Partitions Turkey, for example? (6,2).
10 One who succeeds, finding iron in Jersey at early stage (6).
11 With jam left out, roll that's gripped by teeth (8).
12 Encountered extraterrestrial leader or traveller in space (6).
13 Call up again, keen to be involved with a war (8).
15 Pro's spoken warning to golfers (4).
17 Charged particles irradiated our nuclear submarines initially (4).
19 Kindly act that should be applauded (4,4).
20 Ketch reportedly put in building for certain craft (6).
21 Part of sentence cut, that's understood (8).
22 Standing stone pieces in this place, reportedly (6).
23 With Jack, Queen, King, and Ace no trump is not normal (8).
24 Meant to include evidence in legal document (8).
25 You and the French surrounding ship in struggle (6).

DOWN

2 Some collaborator I organised for work done in church (8).
3 Computer operators view real broadcast (8).
4 Rogue found briefly desirable by a party (9).
5 Provide with requirement, according to this law (6,3,6).
6 The brake is needed in that situation (7).
7 Outside US city, put up painting (8).
8 Parts of listener's equipment are damaged by loud instruments (8).
14 Exuberant English bulletin half-changed (9).
15 Understood rich daughter retaining place to live (8).
16 Smarten, somehow, with new bits of clothing (8).
17 Highly placed within churches, provides encouragement (8).
18 Someone other than me on a lake? That's ideal (8).
19 Means of transmission of financial ratio (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,057

STREETWISE CLIP
A E N A T O O
SWEETENERS MULL
H F E T A U T Y
REAR OFFSPRING
S R T N E A S A
UNSTABLE ANTHEM
P I Y B D I
ERRAND BARRACKS
R I I M C U O T
THORNBACK NONE
O T G T D N C A
NOOK STURDINESS
I U E O N R I
CASE PROPAGANDA

Times Two Crossword, page 52

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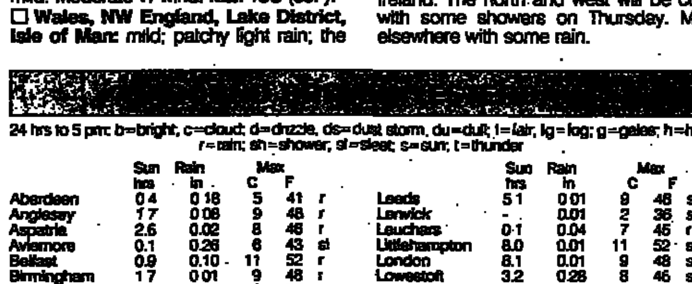
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Sun rises: 5.57 am — Sun sets: 6.17 pm
Moon sets: 12.23 am — Moon rises: 9.34 am
First quarter tomorrow

London 6.17 pm to 5.55 am
Bristol 6.28 pm to 6.05 am
Edinburgh 6.32 pm to 6.06 am
Manchester 6.27 pm to 6.03 am
Penzance 6.39 pm to 6.17 am



☐ **General:** overnight rain will clear the Midlands and northern England to leave England and Wales mild and mainly dry. However, a lot of cloud will remain, especially along western coasts and over the higher ground where there may be light rain. The best of any sunny breaks will be in the east.

Northern Ireland and Scotland mild, largely cloudy. The east and northeast may stay dry; rain elsewhere, the heaviest of it across the northwest Highlands and the Western Isles.

Tonight, rain will spread south across Scotland and Northern Ireland with far northwest turning cold towards end of the night. Elsewhere, mainly dry with some brief clear spells and quite mild.

☐ **London, SE, Cent S England:** mild, mostly cloudy with a few sunny breaks. Moderate W to SW wind. Max 14C (57F).
☐ **E Anglia, Midlands, E, Cent N, NE England:** overnight rain will clear; then breezy, mild with occasional sunny breaks. Moderate to fresh W wind. Max 12C (57F).
☐ **Channel Islands, SW England:** rather cloudy with drizzle on coasts and hills; mild. Moderate W wind. Max 13C (55F).
☐ **Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** mild; patchy light rain; the best of any sunny breaks to the east of high ground. Fresh westerly wind. Max 13C (55F).
☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney:** mild, cloudy, some light rain possible. Moderate westerly wind. Max 13C (55F).
☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland:** dull with outbreaks of rain; mild. Fresh SW wind. Max 12C (54F).
☐ **Shetland:** cold and largely cloudy with some rain and hill-snow edging northwards later. Light and variable wind. Max 6C (43F).
☐ **N Ireland:** mild but cloudy with outbreaks of light rain. Moderate to fresh westerly wind. Max 12C (54F).
☐ **Republic of Ireland:** a rather cloudy day, with drizzle at times in the north and west. Some brighter skies in the east. Rather brisk west or southwesterly wind. Mild. Max 11C (52F).

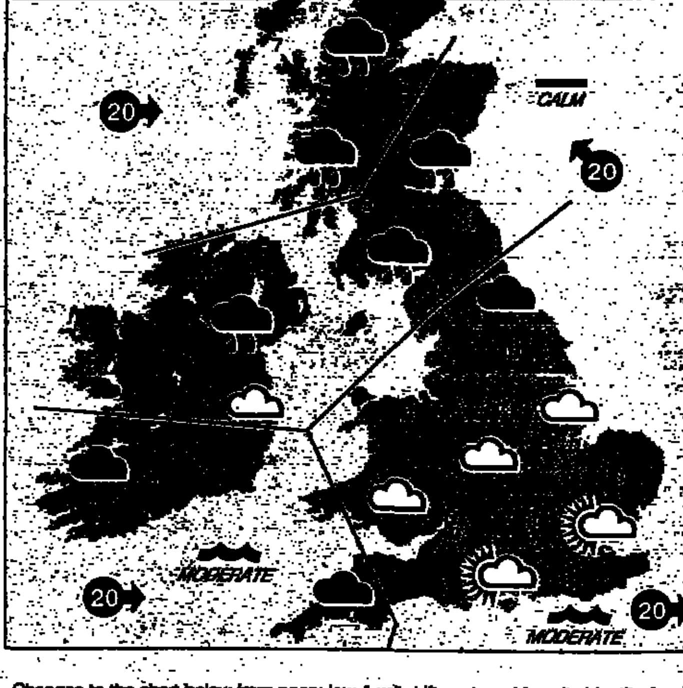
☐ **Outlook:** the south and east will stay mild and mainly dry with a few sunny spells tomorrow; but rain elsewhere, clearing to give sunny spells and increasingly wintry showers in Scotland and Northern Ireland. The north and west will be cold with some showers on Thursday. Mild elsewhere with some rain.

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	0.4	0.18	5	41	r
Anglesey	1.7	0.08	9	48	r
Aspatria	2.6	0.02	8	46	r
Aviemore	0.1	0.26	6	43	sl
Belfast	0.9	0.10	11	52	r
Birmingham	1.7	0.01	9	48	r
Bognor R	8.2	0.02	11	52	s
Bournemth	3.9	0.02	12	54	b
Bristol	4.3	0.03	11	52	b
Buxton	3.8	0.01	6	43	s
Cardiff	6.6	0.01	12	54	b
Clacton	3.0	X	X	X	c
Cleethorpes	0.8	0.13	9	48	b
Cromer	1.8	0.07	7	45	c
Eastbourne	7.6	0.01	11	52	s
Edinburgh	0.2	0.01	10	50	sh
Eskdalemuir	0.4	0.19	5	41	r
Exmouth	5.6	-	10	50	b
Fishguard	1.8	0.04	8	46	r
Folkestone	5.7	0.15	9	48	b
Glasgow	1.6	0.12	10	50	r
Guernsey	8.9	-	12	54	s
Hastings	5.0	0.06	11	52	b
Hayling I.	8.1	0.01	10	50	s
Herne Bay	4.6	0.02	9	48	b
Hove	4.0	-	11	52	b
Hunstanton	0.8	0.05	8	46	c
Isle of Man	1.5	0.19	10	50	r
Isle of Wight	X	0.01	10	50	c
Jersey	7.4	0.01	11	52	sh
Kinloss	0.1	0.08	8	46	r
Leeds	5.1	0.01	9	48	s
Lerwick	-	0.01	2	36	sn
Leuchars	0.1	0.04	7	45	r
Littlehampton	8.0	0.01	11	52	s
London	8.1	0.01	9	48	s
Lowestoft	3.2	0.28	8	46	sh
Manchester	2.3	0.02	8	46	r
Margate	4.1	0.02	8	48	b
Morecambe	3.2	0.05	7	45	r
Newcastle	4.0	0.02	8	48	r
Newquay	3.9	-	9	48	b
Norwich	1.0	0.24	8	46	sh
Oxford	2.5	0.01	10	50	c
Penzance	5.2	-	12	54	s
Poole	0.5	0.04	11	52	c
Ross on Wye	3.1	0.06	10	50	b
Saunton Sands	2.0	-	11	52	c
Scarborough	0.9	0.22	7	45	r
Shrewsbury	1.2	0.19	9	48	r
Skegness	2.0	0.11	8	46	c
Southend	5.3	-	9	48	b
Southport	X	0.07	8	46	r
Southsea	7.4	0.01	11	52	s
Stornoway	-	0.26	6	43	r
Swanage	2.5	0.03	11	52	sh
Teignmouth	6.0	-	11	52	s
Tenby	3.9	0.01	10	50	d
Tiree	-	0.11	9	48	r
Torquay	8.2	-	12	54	s
Weymouth	6.1	0.01	11	52	s

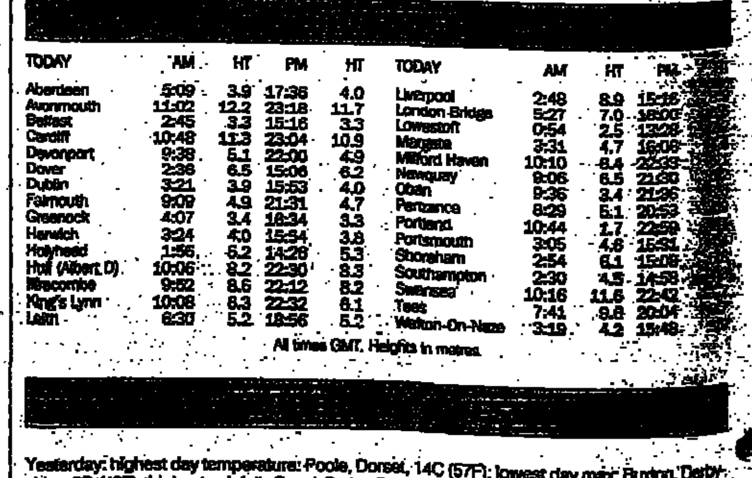
	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	14	57	s	Cologne	8	46	c	Madrid	17	63	s	Rome	15	59	s
Akrotiri	16	61	t	C'phagn	3	37	c	Majorca	17	63	f	R'nldsway	9	48	c
Alex'dria	19	66	s	Corfu	11	52	f	Malaga	18	64	f	Salzburg	7	45	s
Algiers	18	64	s	Dublin	10	50	c	Malta	14	57	f	S Frisco	14	57	s
Amst'dm	6	43	r	Dubrovnik	11	52	s	Melbourne	20	68	r	Santiago	27	81	s
Athens	12	54	f	Faro	18	64	f	Mexico C	22	72	s	Seoul	2	36	f
Bahrain	26	79	s	Florence	13	55	f	Miami	27	81	s	Singapore	31	88	f
Bangkok	37	99	f	Frankfurt	7	45	f	Milan	13	55	s	Stockholm	1	34	c
Barbados	28	82	f	Funchal	17	63	s	Montreal	4	39	s	Strasb'rg	9	48	f
Barcelona	15	59	s	Geneva	10	50	s	Moscow	3	37	s	Sydney	26	79	s
Beijing	5	41	s	Gibraltar	17	63	c	Munich	8	46	f	Tangier	19	66	s
Beirut	16	61	f	Helsinki	2	36	c	Nairobi	28	82	s	Tel Aviv	20	68	s
Belgrade	9	48	f	Hong K	19	66	r	Naples	13	55	s	Tenerife	25	77	s
Berlin	7	45	f	Innsbruck	7	45	f	N Delhi	24	75	s	Tokyo	6	43	r
Bermuda	20	68	f	Istanbul	8	46	f	N York	9	48	f	Toronto	8	46	s
Biarritz	11	52	c	Jeddah	32	90	s	Nice	14	57	s	Tunis	17	63	s
Bordeaux	13	55	c	Jo'burg	25	77	f	Oslo	-1	30	sn	Valencia	18	64	f
Brussels	6	43	r	L Palmas	23	73	s	Paris	8	46	c	Vanc'ver	9	48	r
Budapest	8	46	f	Le Tquet	7	45	f	Perth	27	81	s	Venice	11	62	f
B Aires	28	82	s	Lisbon	19	66	s	Prague	7	45	c	Vienna	8	46	s
Cairo	21	70	f	Locarno	11	52	s	Reykjavik	-1	30	s	Warsaw	3	37	c
Cape Tn	22	72	s	L Angeles	15	59	s	Rhodes	14	57	s	Washton	7	45	r
Chicago	7	45	s	Luxembg	6	43	c	Rio de J	27	81	s	Wel'ngton	18	64	X
Ch'church	23	73	X	Luxor	27	81	s	Riyadh	34	93	s	Zurich	9	48	s

Temperatures at midday local time on Sunday. X — not available



Changes to the chart below from noon: low A will drift east, and lose its identity; low B will drift east, initially deepening before starting to fill; high C will drift eastwards, absorbing high D, and pushing low E eastwards





TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	5:09	3.9	17:36	4.0
Avonmouth	11:02	12.2	23:18	11.7
Belfast	2:45	3.3	15:16	3.3
Cardiff	10:48	11.3	23:04	10.9
Devonport	9:38	5.1	22:00	4.9
Dover	2:36	6.5	15:06	6.2
Dublin	3:21	3.9	15:53	4.0
Falmouth	9:09	4.9	21:31	4.7
Greenock	4:07	3.4	16:34	3.3
Harwich	3:24	4.0	15:54	3.8
Holyhead	1:56	5.2	14:28	5.3
Hull (Albert D)	10:06	8.2	22:30	8.3
Ilfracombe	9:52	8.6	22:12	8.2
King's Lynn	10:08	8.3	22:32	8.1
Leith	6:30	5.2	18:56	5.2
Liverpool	2:48	8.9	15:16	[illegible]
London Bridge	5:27	7.0	18:00	[illegible]
Lowestoft	0:54	2.5	13:28	[illegible]
Margate	3:31	4.7	16:08	[illegible]
Milford Haven	10:10	8.4	22:33	[illegible]
Newquay	9:06	6.5	21:30	[illegible]
Oban	9:36	3.4	21:36	[illegible]
Penzance	8:29	5.1	20:53	[illegible]
Portland	10:44	1.7	22:59	[illegible]
Portsmouth	3:05	4.6	15:31	[illegible]
Shoreham	2:54	6.1	15:08	[illegible]
Southampton	2:30	4.5	14:58	[illegible]
Swansea	10:16	11.6	22:42	[illegible]
Tees	7:41	9.8	20:04	[illegible]
Walton-On-Naze	3:19	4.2	15:48	[illegible]

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

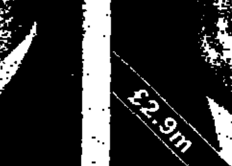
Yesterday: highest day temperature: Poole, Dorset, 14C (57F); lowest day max: Buxton, Derbyshire, 6C (43F); highest rainfall: Capel Curig, Gwynedd, 0.90ins; highest sunshine: Torquay, Devon, 8.2hr.

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY MARCH 23 1999

Former bank chief joins premier league of golden handshakes





Jim Fifield: left EMI

Richard Oster: Cookson package



Malcolm Coster: Lorien deal

Don Carcieri: left Cookson



Alastair Lyons: Abbey payoff



Paul Buysse: BTR departure

Taylor in £1.6m Barclays payoff



Martin Taylor: also receives options

By CAROLINE MERRELL
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

MARTIN TAYLOR, the former chief executive of Barclays Bank, received a £1.6 million payoff last year, bringing his total pay package to £2.5 million.

Mr Taylor left Barclays a little more than four months ago after disagreements over the future strategy of the bank, then reeling under heavy losses in Russia and excessive costs. Since reporting its results in February, however, Barclays has somewhat shed its tarnished image and its shares have bounced. Yesterday they closed at £17.57, compared with a low of 838p in October.

The compensation payment is in lieu of one year's pay, plus the associated benefits Mr Taylor would have received if he had remained with the bank. The settlement process took into account a potential growth in the bank's profits in 1999 from 1998, when it reported a pre-tax profit of £1.918 billion, which slightly overshot analysts' forecasts.

The disclosure is likely to anger banking unions, which are becoming increasingly militant. Barclays has shed more than 20,000 staff in the past seven years, and rank-and-file employees earn an average of £11,500 a year. Yesterday three banking unions agreed to merge, forging a super-union with almost 200,000 members.

Mr Taylor was on a one-year contract. A Barclays spokesman said: "This type of damages payment is usual for an executive that leaves by mutual consent."

His actual pay last year, excluding the compensation payment, rose 30 per cent to £957,000. This comprised basic pay of £568,000, an annual bonus of £369,000, benefits of £12,000 and profit related pay of £8,000. In 1997 Mr Taylor earned £738,000.

The payoff puts Mr Taylor in the premier league of "golden handshakes". According to the Labour Research Department, the highest compensation payment by far was made to Jim Fifield, who was paid more than £12 million upon his departure from EMI last year.

Richard Oster and Don Carcieri received £2.9 million and £1.5 million respectively after their departure from Cookson following a boardroom bust-up.

Mr Taylor's severence pay is the biggest among the financial companies, outstripping that of Alastair Lyons, the former head of the National & Provincial Building Society. Mr Lyons received £1.2 million when he left after N&P was taken over by Abbey National. It is almost double the figure received by Bill Harrison, also of Barclays, who was paid £946,000.

BTR's Paul Buysse left with a £1.1 million package, and almost immediately joined Vickers. Malcolm Coster left Lorien, the information technology group, after only eight months with a £1.8 million payoff.

The news of Mr Taylor's payoff comes in the week that Mike O'Neill, a former US marine, starts as chief executive of Barclays. Mr O'Neill is to be paid a basic salary of £2 million. He will also be given shares worth a total of £5 million, plus generous share options dependent on the performance of the bank.

The US banker's pay package far outstrips that of other UK banking chief executives. Last year Derek Wanless of Natwest was paid £832,000, an 84 per cent increase on the previous year. Yesterday Natwest pointed out the Mr Wanless and other executives had waived their bonuses in 1997, which accounted for the sharp rise in pay this year. Lord Alexander of Weedon, the NatWest chairman, also waived his bonus. Last year he was paid a total of £720,000, up from £434,000.

Commentary, page 29

Business Today

Anatole Kaletsky says the bulls can lord it for a while

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STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	6152.8	(-10.4)
Yield	2.52%	
FTSE All Share	2843.04	(-4.14)
Nikkei	Closed	
New York:		
Dow Jones	9914.93	(+11.38)*
S&P Composite	1300.24	(+0.95)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	[illegible]*	([illegible])
Long bond	[illegible]*	([illegible])
Yield	5.53%*	(5.55%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	[illegible]%	([illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	117.38	(117.55)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6285*	(1.6294)
London:		
$	1.6278	(1.6292)
€	1.4927	(1.4914)
SFr	2.3842	(2.3821)
Yen	191.96	(190.81)
£ Index	103.0	(102.8)

DOLLAR

London:		
€	1.0915*	(1.0900)
SFr	1.4630*	(1.4663)
Yen	118.15*	(117.15)
$ index	107.6	(107.4)

Tokyo close Yen 117.54

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jun)	$13.55	($13.50)

GOLD

London close	$284.45	($283.75)

* denotes midday trading prices

Exchange rates .... Page 28

Top pay at Glaxo to keep pace with US firms

By PAUL DURMAN

SIR RICHARD SYKES and the directors of Glaxo Wellcome look set for further increases in their million-pound pay packets after the pharmaceuticals group amends its executive incentive schemes.

Sir Richard, chairman, received more than £3.6 million in salary, bonuses and shares last year but Glaxo is worried it needs to remain "competitive" with high-paying US companies.

William Steere, chairman and chief executive of Pfizer, the high-flying company behind Viagra, received a package worth $17.2 million (£10.5 million) last year. Raymond Gilmartin, who heads Merck, the world's largest drug company, was paid $2.56 million but also received stock options that could be worth a further $14.1 million.

The board is on course to receive further huge sums under a long-term incentive plan. In 1998 Sir Richard received shares worth £1.8 million. Incentive shares already awarded could make another £1.8 million for Sir Richard this year.

The new options scheme proposes a performance hurdle: that the company should increase its earnings per share by at least 9 per cent more than the retail price index over a three-year period before the options can be exercised. Current analysts' forecasts suggest Glaxo will beat this target easily.

Slowing economy lifts rate cut hopes

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S economy slowed close to a standstill in the last quarter of 1998, reviving City hopes that the Bank of England will cut interest rates next month.

Revised data showed quarterly GDP growth slowed to just 0.1 per cent in the fourth quarter of last year, half the previous estimate of 0.2 per cent.

However, hopes that consumers will help to stave off a full-scale recession remained intact after the breakdown in the data showed robust growth in income levels, while a consumer sentiment survey for March revealed confidence is at its highest level for nine months.

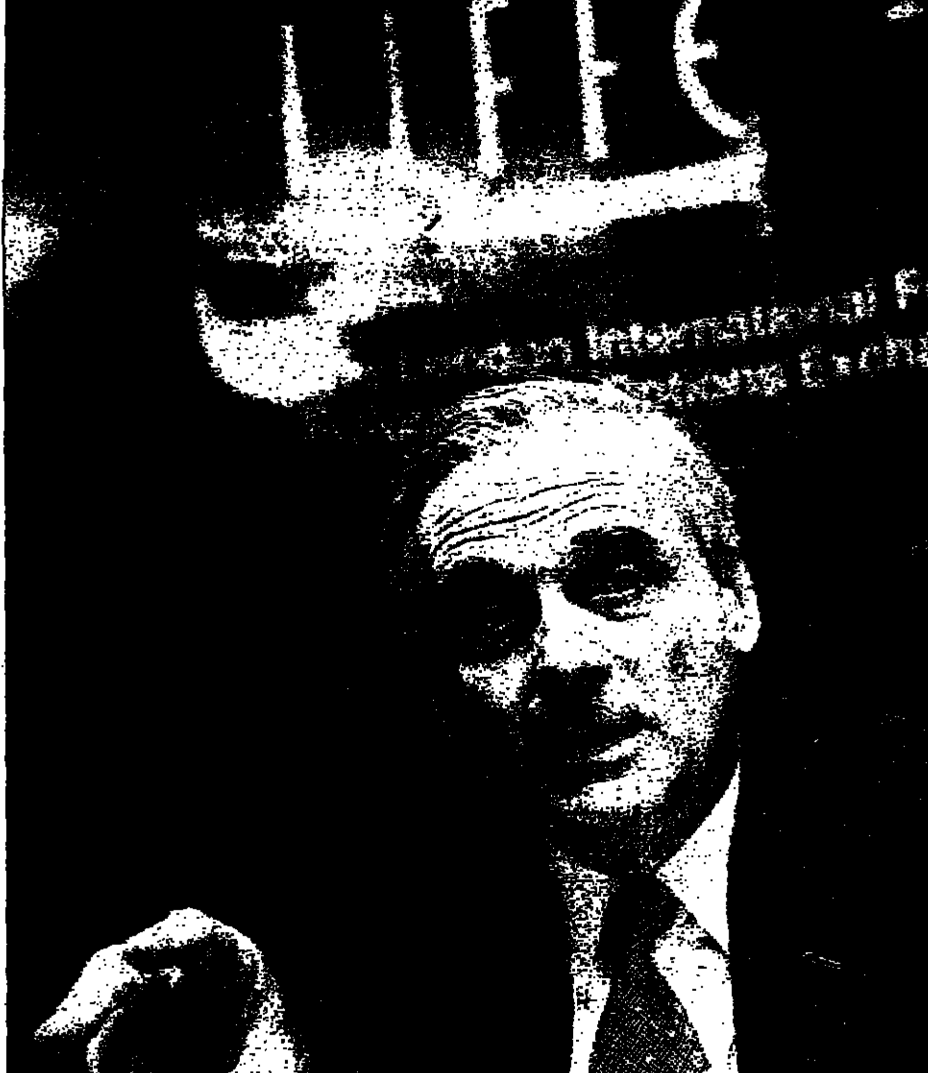
The downwards revision to the GDP figures resulted from an unexpected reduction in the quarterly rate of service sector growth from 0.6 per cent to 0.5 per cent. This also cut the annual rate of GDP growth from 1.3 per cent to 1.1 per cent.

Analysts said the lower growth levels could encourage the Bank to cut rates next month but added that the chances of an economic "soft landing" were actually improved by some of the data revisions.

Overall domestic demand was revised upwards from 0.4 per cent to 0.6 per cent. Stock levels were revised down, cutting GDP growth in the short term but suggesting that inventory levels offer less of a threat to growth this year.

Hopes that consumer spending will prop up the economy were also bolstered by a 2.2 per cent quarterly jump in real personal disposable income levels. This rise resulted in a rebound in the household saving rate, which rose from 6.3 per cent to 7.4 per cent.

Separate data also published yesterday showed a far healthier than expected current account surplus, adding to the impression that the economy is weathering the downturn. Britain posted a surprise £1 billion current account surplus in the fourth quarter of the year, mainly because of a jump in erratic investment income. This ensured a surplus of £1.5 billion across 1998 as a whole, the first time since the mid-1980s that Britain has posted a current account surplus for two consecutive quarters.



Brian Williamson, the former head of GNI, the Liffe firm that has suspended two traders

Liffe firm acts to suspend traders

By JASON NISSÉ

GNI, the futures and options broker founded by Brian Williamson, the chairman of Liffe and headed by him until last August, has suspended two traders amid a dealing scandal.

Both GNI, which is part of Gerrard Group, and Liffe are investigating the circumstances in which a GNI client discovered a series of unauthorised trades in short-dated sterling interest rate futures on his account. One transaction, dated March 4, appeared to have lost the client £200,000.

Both Liffe and GNI declined to comment, although Jamie Sheldon, GNI's chief executive, confirmed his firm had suspended two brokers.

The GNI affair comes as Liffe is preparing to publish its report into Refco Overseas, the US broker. Five traders are set to be disciplined and the firm is expected to be fined following a three-year investigation into irregular trading.

GNI, one of the largest brokers at Liffe, was founded by Mr Williamson and Christopher Sharples, who later became chairman of the Securities & Futures Authority.

One2One mobilises for market

By ANDREW BUTCHER AND CHRIS AYRES

ONE2ONE, the mobile phone company, could soon join the London stock market following a $60 billion (£37 billion) cable television merger in the US.

MediaOne, which jointly owns One2One with Britain's Cable & Wireless, is merging with its rival Comcast. Chuck Lillis, president, chairman and chief executive of MediaOne, said yesterday that Lehman Brothers, the investment bank, had been hired to advise on the disposal of wireless assets.

Analysts believe C&W will buy MediaOne's stake in One2One, and then float a minority stake. One2One has been valued at up to £12 billion.

MediaOne also has a 29 per cent stake in Telewest of the UK. Although City analysts say C&W would like to buy the stake before bidding for Telewest, it is understood that America's TCI has the first right to buy it.

Commentary, page 29

Greycoat rejects £218m Delancey bid

By CARL MORTISHED

GREYCOAT, the Central London property developer, put itself up for sale yesterday, just hours after it had received a £218 million hostile bid from Delancey Estates, a rival property company controlled by George Soros and British Land.

Delancey's 201p per share paper offer was dismissed as derisory by Greycoat's directors, who revealed that a strategic review had concluded that the board should seek offers for the company following the announcement of Greycoat's results for the year to March 31.

Peter Thornton, managing director of Greycoat, admitted the review had concluded investors were fed up with small companies. "One solution was to put the company up for auction." However, Mr Thornton said the directors wanted to do it in their own time to get full value for shareholders.

Shares in Greycoat gained 32p to 200p yesterday, while Delancey lost 3p to 97½p.

James Ritblat, Delancey's managing director, said: "The market wants the property sector to consolidate."

Mr Ritblat, the son of John Ritblat, chairman of British Land, said the enlarged group would have net assets of some £400 million and would qualify for the FTSE 250 index.

Greycoat has previously survived a rescue proposal by Hermes, the fund management organisation; attacks by UK Active Value, a discontented shareholder; and a bid approach from Moorfields. Delancey's current management took control nine months ago when it acquired Freehold Portfolios Estates, controlled by James Ritblat. George Soros's Quantum Realty Fund injected £100 million into Delancey. The Ritblat family now owns 7 per cent of Delancey.

Commentary, page 29

Arnault sweetens bid for Gucci

By Fraser Nelson

BERNARD ARNAULT, chairman of LVMH, has lifted his takeover offer for Gucci from $5 billion to $7.9 billion (£5 billion) in a deal that would give rival suitor Francois Pinault £144 million to walk away.

M Arnault has agreed to recognise the 39 million shares that Gucci created for M Pinault on Friday, and make a bid on the basis that LVMH will, in return, reclaim the $2.9 billion cash injection that was promised by Pinault-Printemps-Redoubte (PPR). This leaves the net value of the bid at $5 billion.

M Pinault, the richest man in France and the owner of Christie's auctioneers, would make a $6-a-share profit on the shares he bought for $75 a share four days ago. But if he accepts, he must sever all links with Gucci.

BERNARD ARNAULT

Age: 50
Estimated net worth: £1.5 billion.
Main company: LVMH (capitalised at £2.1 billion). The Arnault family owns 49 per cent; controls voting rights.
Drinks: Moët & Chandon, Veuve Clicquot, Hennessy.
Fashion/Accessories: Louis Vuitton, Kenzo, Christian Lacroix, Guerlain, Fred, Desfosses, Berluti, Pommery, Sephora.
Perfumes: Christian Dior, Givenchy, Parfums Christian Lacroix.
Retail: Le Bon Marche, DFS.

FRANCOIS PINAULT

Age: 65
Estimated net worth: £1.9 billion
Main company: Pinault-Printemps-Redoubte (capitalised at £1.8 billion). Pinault family owns 40 per cent; controls voting rights.
Fashion/Accessories: Yves Saint Laurent, Samsonite luggage, Converse.
Perfumes: Yves Saint Laurent, Oscar de La Renta, Van Cleef & Arpels, Roger & Gallet, Krizia, Fendi.
Retail: Le Printemps, La Redoubte, FNAC, Redcats.
Others: Christie's auctioneers, Chateau Latour vineyard.

Yesterday Gucci and LVMH met in an Amsterdam court for the second time in two weeks, as M Arnault tried to have the Pinault deal declared void and Gucci's supervisory board suspended.

He argued that the Italian fashion house should have consulted shareholders before completing the Pinault deal on Friday.

The court rejected both claims, but instead ordered Domenico De Sole, Gucci's chief executive, to hold a full boardroom vote on M Arnault's new bid at $81 a share. It also ordered that no directors of PPR will be able to influence the deal.

M Arnault had previously said he would not make any bid unless Gucci abandoned the Pinault deal.

Gucci said: "This is a victory for us. M Arnault has failed to sue us for a second time, and we have already said we are quite happy to look at the $81-a-share bid."

M Arnault's advisers were also claiming victory of sorts, in that Signor De Sole is now obliged to study the takeover proposal. Under Dutch law, this will be put to shareholders after the boardroom vote for a period of 20 days.

Observers say that M Arnault's new bid has been forced by his fear that M Pinault will start a rival fashion business to compete his own stable, which includes Kenzo and Christian Lacroix.

M Pinault has already bought the perfume divsion of Sanofi for £616 million — and he proposed selling it on to Gucci as a "wedding present" to start its new luxury goods empire. He intended that its $2.9 billion of cash should be spent buying other small fashion houses, a domain currently dominated by M Arnault's LVMH.

M Pinault and M Arnault have both have made their fortunes from buying bankrupt companies from the state and selling them on. They are both experts in exploiting family and boardroom rifts to take control of companies.

M Arnault has been building a 34.4 per cent stake in Gucci since January, and had been in dispute with Signor De Sole over his right to appoint his own representative to the Gucci board.

The Pinault deal dilutes LVMH's stake to 20.2 per cent, and reduces its voting rights to 17.8 per cent. Gucci is quoted in Amsterdam and New York. Its shares have been recovering from a $32 low in September.

Westminster recommends £214m offer

By Paul Durman

WESTMINSTER Health Care became the latest critic of the City's attitude to smaller companies when the nursing homes group recommended a £214 million takeover offer led by Chai Patel, a prominent figure in the industry.

Backing from Goldman Sachs and Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe (WCAS), a US buyout firm, enabled Dr Patel's privately owned Canterbury Healthcare to offer 311p a share for Westminster. Although this price is 68 per cent more than Westminster's share price last week, it is still well below the 410p its shares reached early last year.

Pat Carter, Westminster's chief executive, said: "Being a small company in an unfavoured sector is not a hugely exciting place to be. Markets do not take long views, or a lot of the market doesn't."

The growth prospects of providing nursing homes for an ageing population briefly made Westminster a strong performer after its flotation in 1993. But a local authority squeeze on nursing home spending and the Government's move to increase nurses' pay caused Westminster to issue two profit warnings last year.

Dr Patel, the founder and former chairman of Court Cavendish, lost out to Bupa 15 months ago in a £273 million bid battle for Care First, another nursing homes group, where he was briefly chief executive.

Dr Patel yesterday said that Westminster is likely to seek a return to the stock market at some stage. He acknowledged the problems faced by small companies but added: "The City's views of things changes. We very much hope to make the company significantly larger."


Patel: expansion hope

Dr Patel wants to expand into Europe and to increase Westminster's share of the UK nursing homes market from 1 per cent to 5 per cent. He said: "We believe some of the issues surrounding staffing will, over a period of time, go. Demographically, the need for nursing services is not going to diminish."

Mr Carter will remain as a consultant for a handover period, but he intends to seek opportunities in other sectors.

Dr Patel and Anthony Heywood, formerly his finance director at Court Cavendish, will have a 1.34 per cent stake in Canterbury after it acquires Westminster. Funds associated with Goldman Sachs and WCAS will each have a 49.33 per cent stake.

Westminster was advised by NM Rothschild. The company was first approached by potential bidders in mid-January. It has spoken to an unknown number of other parties. Tempus, page 30

PETER TRIEVNOR


Jim Brown unveiled a 16 per cent rise in Newsquest profits

P&S press group puts its stores up for sale

By Raymond Snoddy
Media Editor

Portsmouth & Sunderland Newspapers, the regional press group, has formally put its chain of more than 200 convenience stores on the market.

The sale of the chain, which is located mainly in the South of England and the Midlands and is expected to fetch more than £50 million, is the clearest sign yet that P&S's board may be willing to give in to one of the suitors chasing it.

Three other quoted local newspaper groups — Johnston Press, Newsquest and Newscom — have all shown interest in buying P&S, but none of them is interested in running the convenience stores. P&S has previously insisted that the stores were an integral part of the group.

Newsquest, which is trying to position itself as a "white knight" to P&S, yesterday announced a 16 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £65.8 million in the 53 weeks to January 3. The group, chaired by Jim Brown, achieved an underlying increase in advertising revenue of 6.7 per cent and although there was a slowdown in the final quarter, advertising has bounced back in the first quarter of the current year. The final dividend will be 4p, making 6p for the year.

Tempus, page 30

UK regulator blocks plans for Glaxo drug

By Paul Durman

GLAXO WELLCOME yesterday received its second regulatory setback in a month when the UK Medicines Control Agency blocked its plans to restart promotion of Romozin, a controversial diabetes drug that has been linked to a number of deaths in the US.

Glaxo was unable to convince the UK regulator that the drug, developed by Sankyo of Japan, could be made safe if patients took regular liver tests.

This could be bad news for Warner-Lambert, the US company that sold almost $750 million (£463 million) of the drug it calls Rezulin last year. An advisory committee to the US Food and Drug Administration is due to review the safety of the drug on Friday.

SmithKline Beecham is likely to be the main beneficiary of the problems with Romozin/Rezulin. Avandia, its rival product, which is currently being reviewed by regulators, appears to raise fewer safety concerns.


Sykes: optimistic

The FDA last month turned down Glaxo's application for marketing approval for Relenza, a treatment for influenza. The drug has secured the go-ahead in Sweden but the US agency was concerned by Relenza's poor performance in an American trial that was the largest conducted.

Glaxo voluntarily suspended its marketing of Romozin in December 1997 after deaths linked to the drug were reported in the US and Japan. However, Sir Richard Sykes, chairman, was optimistic about the chances of its being reintroduced to the UK.

The MCA decided that, even with liver testing, "the data and arguments submitted did not give assurance that the balance of risk and benefits could be made favourable". Warner-Lambert argues that liver monitoring can reduce risks "to an absolute minimum".

It is thought that Glaxo is unlikely to make further attempts to secure approval for Romozin.

Glaxo shares, which peaked at £22.88 in January, fell 12p to £19.01 yesterday.

Regent Inns calls off merger talks

REGENT INNS yesterday broke off merger talks with SFI Group after the two sides failed to agree on the relative value and prospects of their respective companies. Analysts said that while Regent was looking for a 60/40 split in value terms, SFI had been pushing for a 50/50 merger of equals. Based on yesterday's closing shares prices, Regent is capitalised at £155 million while SFI is worth £115 million.

David Franks, managing director of Regent, said that the predicted cost savings had also proved a problem as Regent had been forced to spend heavily on a new infrastructure after its profit warning in June. "Our costs are quite high but dropping while SFI's are low," he said. Mr Franks added: "Regent has a solid future. It has a strong portfolio of brands and a pub opening programme that will ensure the company's future development. Current trading remains strong, with like-for-like sales for the first 36 weeks of the year up 2.6 per cent." The companies had been in talks since the beginning of February.

Media invitation

LETIZIA MORATTI, executive chairman of News Corp Europe, yesterday said she had been "reinvited" back into talks with Silvio Berlusconi's Mediaset and the Kirch Group, the continental television groups that agreed a pan-European media alliance at the weekend with the backing of Prince al-Waleed bin Talal, the Saudi financier. Mrs Moratti has been given the task of building up the European media assets of The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*.

TI's American buy

TI GROUP, the UK engineering company, has acquired Tri-Manufacturing from GE Aircraft Engines for $58 million (£36 million). The acquisition will be incorporated into Dowty's turbine engine components business at an estimated one-off cost of $3 million. The acquisition is expected to enhance earnings in its first year. Tri-Manufacturing, based in Indiana, makes jet engine hot-section components. Customers include Pratt & Whitney. Its 1998 sales were $64 million.

UNiFI aims to grow

A NEW self-styled "super-union" representing 200,000 City and financial industry workers plans to expand membership to one million by recruitment and possibly merging with other staff groups. The new merged union, to be called UNiFI, won backing from members of the existing UNiFI and of Bifu and the NatWest Staff Association at the weekend. Ed Sweeney, Bifu leader, said: "This is a clear message to the finance industry that staff need and want one voice."

Chesterfield delays

SHAREHOLDERS in Chesterfield Properties, the embattled property investor, yesterday delayed the £93.5 million sale of a portfolio of the company's assets to enable takeover talks to proceed. The delay was prompted by an approach from Quintain Estates that might lead to a takeover offer. Chesterfield shareholders agreed to adjourn yesterday's meeting at which they were to vote on the sale of the properties to GE Capital Corp. Chesterfield shares closed 31½p higher at 426½p.

Forth Ports on the up

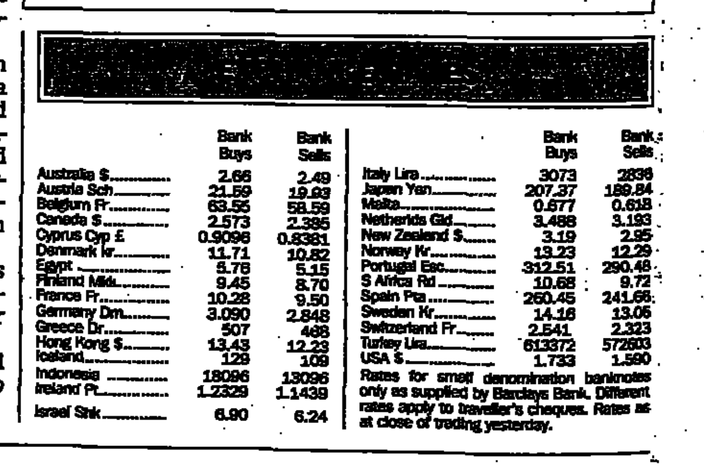
FORTH PORTS, the port owner and operator, announced a 27 per cent jump in pre-tax profit yesterday to £31 million for 1998. An increase in steel tonnages of almost 50 per cent at Grangemouth led Forth's efforts to push aside the impact of the economic slowdown. The result came from a 13 per cent rise in turnover to £108 million. Forth declared a final dividend of 11p a share, making 16p for the year compared with 14.5p previously. Forth shares closed 2½p lower at 592½p.

Microsoft 2000 launch

MICROSOFT has responded to pressure from rival corporate software systems by telling staff that it is on track to release its new Windows 2000 program by October. Windows 2000, the software company's next generation of program for large corporate computer networks, is Microsoft's latest effort to beat systems designed by Sun Microsystems and Novell. Smaller rivals, such as the Linux, have created problems for Microsoft's existing Windows NT system.

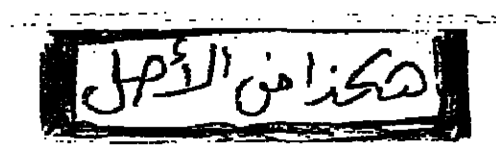
Peptide losses worsen

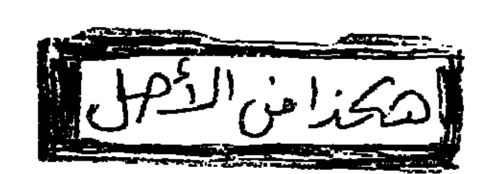
PEPTIDE Therapeutics, the vaccines company, said its $20 million (£12 million) acquisition of OraVax, a US rival, will give it eight products in clinical trials and collaborations with five of the world's top ten pharmaceutical companies. Peptide incurred increased losses in 1998 of £7.5 million, despite reductions in research and development and administrative expenditure. The company hopes to restrict its cash burn to £1 million a month after taking over OraVax.



	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.66	2.49
Austria Sch	21.59	19.93
Belgium Fr	63.56	58.59
Canada $	2.573	2.385
Cyprus Cyp £	0.9096	0.8381
Denmark Kr	11.71	10.82
Egypt	5.78	5.15
Finland Mkk	9.45	8.70
France Fr	10.28	9.50
Germany Dm	3.090	2.848
Greece Dr	507	468
Hong Kong $	13.43	12.23
Iceland	129	109
Indonesia	18096	13096
Ireland Pt	1.2329	1.1439
Israel Shk	6.90	6.24
Italy Lira	3073	2838
Japan Yen	207.37	189.84
Malta	0.677	0.618
Netherlds Gld	3.488	3.193
New Zealand $	3.19	2.95
Norway Kr	13.23	12.29
Portugal Esc	312.51	290.48
S Africa Rd	10.68	9.72
Spain Pta	260.45	241.66
Sweden Kr	14.16	13.06
Switzerland Fr	2.541	2.323
Turkey Lira	613372	572603
USA $	1.733	1.590

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.





Payoffs Taylor-made for performance



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Martin Taylor will, no doubt, find a tax efficient way of dealing with his £1.6 million payoff. He did, after all, help out the Government by investigating how the country's tax and benefits systems might be improved. So the benefits now being collected by the former Barclays chief executive are likely to escape criticism by that castigator of corporate largesse, Chancellor Gordon Brown. Shareholders, however, should be feel less muzzled.

It seems increasingly rare for any chief executive to leave a company without a generous donation to his bank account. Companies apparently feel obliged to pay up to the end of the executive's contract, no matter what the circumstances of their departure. Thank heaven that the sensible Alasdair Ross Goobey, of Hermes, the fund manager, pursued his campaign to put an end to the aptly named "three-year roller". Many a tired chief executive must have felt inclined to cash in on one of those and head for an early retirement in the South of France.

But even if only 18 months money is involved, it is cowardice on behalf of companies to feel that large sums of shareholders' cash should be paid out when relationships turn sour.

Last December, when Martin Taylor abruptly ended his reign at Barclays, there was no doubt about the fact that he had resigned. He had decided to go and he had decided to go quickly, explained Sir Peter Middleton.

In his first years at Barclays, Mr Taylor had achieved much. But that all was not sweetness and light within the boardroom had been increasingly clear. Mr Taylor was fed up with what he deemed a lack of support from his fellow directors. They, in turn, were wary of some of his strategies. That his departure was accompanied with a profit warning was an eloquent comment on what had been going on.

He may not have been paid as much as his successor will be, but Mr Taylor was not badly remunerated while he was doing the job. Now, rightly, he is to hold on to the share options that he earned during his years at the bank and which should yield him considerable profits. But why should he be paid for the time that he will not be working for the bank?

Investors make much noise about remuneration policies but rarely take action. Yet there is a growing need for shareholders to appraise their attitude to the subject. The Glaxo-Wellcome annual report may encourage them to do so. With carefully chosen words, Sir Richard Sykes and his team gently indicate that they want to be able to pay executives rather more than they do now. Global companies need to offer the chance of US scale rewards, goes the argument. The pay packet of Mr Taylor's successor demonstrates the point.

The key is performance. Investors should not cavil at rewards geared to performance, since they will benefit too. But they should start making a fuss about rewards for non-performance and resignation.

Banks find euro way to monopoly

According to Martin Kohlhaussen, chief executive of Germany's Commerzbank, big bank mergers are a fashion that will soon fade. Rather than synergy, there is usually a loss of know-how and any profit gains, if they come at all, take much longer than expected.

The fashion, at least, is undeniable. A new round of mergers in Italy follows a bigger one in Spain and a typically grandiose attempt in France to create the world's biggest bank.

This is an instant response to the advent of the euro, which theoretically turns euroland into a genuine single banking market. All the high-cost banks that flourished in most national markets would then suddenly become vulnerable to any international competitor that has pushed its costs down on to a lower plane.

If that really is the case, it is an odd response. With few exceptions, the grand mergers are within member states, not across borders. The euro offers an excuse to consolidate local monopolies in the popular cause of keeping out the foreigner.

No wonder that Commerzbank, as one of the foreigners in question, is exasperated. It aims for the softly-softly approach, taking stakes in retail banks abroad including, it hoped, a privatised Crédit Lyonnais. The concept of a grand national French bank is more clearly political than most, aimed at keeping out the Germans most of all, but Swiss, Dutch and British too. Lloyds TSB once pondered buying Lyonnais but soon found that foreigners cutting French jobs was off the national agenda.

Mind you, it work both ways. When Lyonnais was shamelessly bailed out for the third time, the main EU condition was that it sell its subsidiaries in Germany, Belgium and Spain, though not those in Britain. So much for the fraternal spirit of a new Europe.

In European terms, these national bank mergers are deeply conservative, designed to protect entrenched interests and avoid any great incursion of competition. At home, however, they are revolutionary. In Italy that was symbolised by the new brutalists overturning the subtle plans of Enrico Cuccia, the 92-year old who has called the shots in Italian finance for decades from his modest base at Mediobanca, which is itself now imperilled

In the UK, naturally, we are stumbling myopically in circles, not because anyone agrees with Herr Kohlhaussen, but because the urgency brought over there by euro passes us by.

The consequence is that, in banking as in insurance, the huge national firms built up through much of the rest of Europe will pick off Barclays, NatWest and most of the lesser banking groups at their leisure.

The right time for Wallace to impress

When Graham Wallace was appointed chief executive of Cable & Wireless, luck did not seeem to be on his side. Only weeks into his job, Germany's Veba offloaded a 10 per cent stake at a heavily discounted price, sending the company's shares into freefall.

That luck has now changed. Thanks to yesterday's $60 billion merger of MediaOne and Comcast in the US, C&W at last has a realistic chance of gaining control of One2One, Britain's smallest mobile phone operator.

Comcast could raise up to £6 billion by selling MediaOne's 50 per cent stake in One2One to C&W, allowing it to concentrate on its core cable business. The pressure is now on Mr Wallace to push through a deal quickly and at a good price, and then float off a minority stake in the company. After all, the value of One2One is clearly not represented in C&W's current share price. Such a strategy would be entirely consistent with the way Mr Wallace's predecessor, Dick Brown, successfully floated C&W Optus in Australia.

If Mr Wallace really wanted to impress, however, he would also take the opportunity to put a bid in for MediaOne's 29 per cent stake in Telewest. This would be a great way of launching a bid for the British cable operator, with the ultimate aim of merging it with Wallace's former employer, Cable & Wireless Communciations. The only snag is that TCI of the US — currently being bought by AT&T — has the first right of refusal. That would not have stopped Dick Brown.

Keep it in the family

RITBLAT JUNIOR sounded like a chip off the old office block yesterday as he denounced the performance by Greycoat. With the backing of no less a person than George Soros, young James is well placed to engineer the long-needed consolidation among second-line property companies. If James succeeds, he could begin to build a rival to British Land, where Nick Ritblat is rapidly rising up the hierarchy. Proud father John, with cash in Delancey, sees no conflict in backing the two boys. Not yet.

Morgan sees Asian recovery

By Adam Jones

MORGAN CRUCIBLE, one of the engineering companies hardest hit by the global financial turmoil last year, continued its cautious recovery yesterday, citing signs of an export-led revival in Asia.

Morgan Crucible's shares had been trading at 501p at one stage last year, before the Asian crisis and the semiconductor market collapse.

When the engineer, which makes carbon and ceramic parts used by industry, issued a profits warning in January, saying that it was the victim of a "swift and savage" downturn, the shares fell to 183½p.

Yesterday's annual results provided no new shocks, and the shares, which have rallied in recent weeks, stayed relatively firm, falling 3p to 247p.

Pre-tax profits for 1998 were £33.9 million, down from £112.1 million in 1997. The fall reflected a £57 million exceptional charge, taken because goodwill had to be written down on several businesses before they are sold. Sales rose from £890.7 million to £900.4 million.

The market was interested in a more upbeat assessment of Morgan's markets. As well as optimism over Asia, Ian Norris, chief executive, said that US steelmakers who use Morgan parts are recovering from a flurry of cheap, imported competition. Orders that were deferred are now almost entirely back on track.

Mr Norris said Europe remains stable and he hopes that the semiconductor market will revive in the second half of this year.

Mr Norris also wants to continue reducing the number of businesses in the group, from about 160 to 100, through internal reorganisation.

By the end of the year, Morgan will also have shed 1,000 jobs. About 700 people have already been made redundant in 1999, including 300 in the South Wales and the Midlands.

Earnings per share fell from 32.8p to 0.7p, reflecting the exceptional charge. An 8.5p dividend makes 15.9p (15.5p).

Tempus, page 30

Roxboro profits 11% ahead

By Adam Jones

ROXBORO, the sensors and controls group, shook off weak Asian markets and the slump in the oil industry to report an 11 per cent rise in profits last year.

Pre-tax profits rose to £17.5 million as margin growth in the sensors and components divisions compensated for leaner order books elsewhere.

Harry Tee, chief executive, said that he expected the civil aerospace market, which is responsible for about 23 per cent of sales, to peak in 2000.

However, Roxboro announced that it has won a contract to supply temperature sensors to the Rolls-Royce Trent 500 engines that will be powering the new Airbus A340-500/600.

Sales rose from £111.4 million to £114.2 million. Earnings per share rose from 19.1p to 21.6p. A dividend of 5.4p will be paid, making 8p for the year, an increase of 10 per cent on 1997.

Maiden advance for Friends

By Gavin Lumsden

FRIENDS Ivory & Sime, the fund management group created in February last year by the reverse takeover of Ivory & Sime by Friends Provident Asset Management, yesterday declared a £14.1 million pre-tax profit at its maiden final result.

The pre-tax profit from February 18, 1998, until the end of the calendar year compares with the £3.4 million pre-tax profit achieved by FPAM in the 12 months up to the takeover of Ivory & Sime, the Edinburgh-based investment trust house.

Turnover more than doubled to £39.7 million, helped by the acquisition of London & Manchester, the insurance group, later in the year. Funds under management finished the year at £30 billion, with £3 billion of that generated by stock market returns.

A final dividend of 4p is proposed, bringing the total for the year to 7p. This is equivalent to 8.06p on an annualised basis, an increase of 10 per cent.

Somerfield acquires delivery service

SOMERFIELD, the supermarkets group, has bought Flanagans, the London-based grocery delivery service formerly used by J Sainsbury. (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The business, for which Somerfield is paying £3.25 million cash, will be used to expand Somerfield Direct, Somerfield's own home delivery business. Sainsbury's ended its agreement with Flanagans last year.

Dominick Scott-Flanagan, founder, and David Noble, his business partner, will be joint managing directors of Somerfield Direct, a new, wholly owned subsidiary of the supermarkets group.

David Simons, chief executive of Somerfield, said: "The launch of Somerfield Direct is an important strategic development for us." Flanagans last year had sales of more than £4 million.



Takeover fever infects Asda in quiet trading

ASDA, the supermarket chain, was the talk of the City yesterday, with almost 18 million shares traded. Over the past two sessions 40 million Asda shares have changed hands, fuelling speculation some good news may be on the way.

Needless to say, there has been a revival in takeover stories ranging from Wal-Mart of the US to Ahold, the Dutch retailer. But Mike Dennis, at SG Securities, the broker, says none of the stories are really credible. "Neither company sees anything attractive in the UK. There is more to buy of value elsewhere in the US or other parts of Europe."

Brokers say it's more likely that someone is putting the story round that like-for-like sales at Asda are growing strongly and could be up by as much as 8 per cent. Asda rose 4½p to 150½p. Rival **Wm Morrison Supermarkets**, up 7½p at 312½p, recently reported encouraging like-for-like sales growth, but much of this was achieved in non-food sales. Asda still relies heavily on food sales for its profits.

Some investors are still taking the view that a soft landing for the economy will be good news for the supermarkets.

"I wouldn't go jumping in with both feet. Competition means Asda is having a tough time of it," adds Mr Dennis.

Industry sources claim that the Office of Fair Trading report into the food retailers could be out as early as tomorrow. Some say the matter will be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. **J Sainsbury** rose 14p to 376½p, and **Iceland** 25p to 275p ahead of results later today.

The rest of the equity market endured a lacklustre session with prices trading in a narrow band. Investors say there is scope for another cut in interest rates but could muster little enthusiasm.

An early 34-point fall was reversed but prices lost ground again following a dull start to trading on Wall Street and in the wake of Friday's losses. London closed off its lows with a fall of 10.4 at 6,152.8. Turnover was 932 million shares.

There seems to be no stopping **Dixons**, the high street retailer, whose popularity knows no bounds. The price surged another 71p to £14.14 in the wake of an upbeat report from Schroder Securities, the broker, on Friday. It has put a value of 970p a share on the core retailing business but reckons the Freeserve Internet service could be worth as much as £10.



John Newman, chairman of TT, saw shares of the group firm in the belief that it will increase its bid for Hall Engineering

Institutional support lifted **Rentokil Initial** 10p to 385½p as BT Alex Brown, the broker, raised its recommendation for the shares from "market underperform" to "market perform".

ICI, which has been enjoying a revival in recent weeks, ran into profit taking ending the session 6½p lower at 574½p. The price was hovering just above its low of 446p, last month, but has been chased high on talk of disposals. Absence of any fresh news has provided the signal for the sellers to move in.

In the financial sector **Alliance & Leicester** rose 20½p to 859p as Warburg Dillon Read, the broker, moved to raise its rating for the shares from "buy" to "strong buy". Northern Rock fell 14p to 502p after a brokers' visit.

Merrill Lynch, the broker, has also taken a shine to **Norwich Union**, 3¼p dearer at 430½p. It has upgraded from "neutral" to "accumulate".

Rea Brothers, the merchant bank, edged 1p firmer at 46½p. Robert Maasdijk, a director, has picked up 695,400 shares, or 1.4 per cent at 45¼p.

TT Group firmed 1½p to 195p. It has until Friday to decide whether to raise its hostile 97p a share bid for **Hall Engineering**, unchanged at 140p. City speculators claim TT will be tempted to raise the offer.

Mövenpick, the Swiss hotel and restaurant group, which has just walked away from a deal to acquire the Aroma coffee chain, is on the lookout for acquisitions. Word is, it is now eyeing up **City Gourmets**, unchanged at 32½p, which owns the Madisons chain of restaurants. **Scottish & Newcastle**, steady at 694½p, may also be interested. City Gourmet is capitalised at £6.7 million.

Avonside, the housebuilder, rose 2½p to 51½p today. Speculators claim that a 65p-a-share offer from **Polypipe**, worth £26.5 million, is on the way.

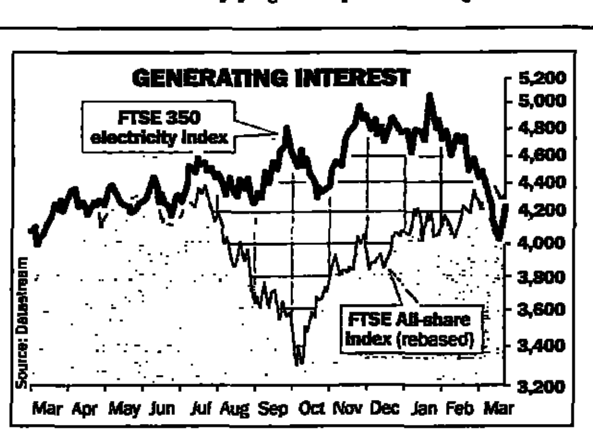
Dealers have been growing impatient for a bid. Avonside admitted to being in talks in early January, but has said nothing since. The story goes that it rejected Polypipe's first offer of 60p a share so the talks had to restart.

In the meantime, Polypipe appears vulnerable. It rose 5½p to 151½p after Prudential raised its stake in the company to 12.38 million, or 7.34 per cent. **Hepworth**, up 4½p at 186p, is seen as a potential suitor.

RJ Mackie, finance director, has bought 100,000 Card Clear shares at 29½p, stretching his holding to 130,000, or less than 1 per cent. The shares responded with a rise of 5p to 34p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Bond prices in London took their lead from US Treasury bonds and closed lower on the day in thin trading. In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt finished down 17p at £117.38, while Treasury 9 per cent 2008 was 18p off at £133.97.

☐ **NEW YORK:** US shares were mixed in early trading. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 11.38 points to 9,914.93.



THE power generators are coming back into their own after a difficult start to the year that has seen the sector drop by about 10 per cent.

Brokers, such as Warburg Dillon Read, take the view that they have been oversold with investors growing concerned about electricity price cuts. Utility companies lose much of their appeal in a bull market with investors falling back on their defensive qualities when the market's fortunes turn.

It has raised Scottish & Southern Energy, down 13p to 579p, from "hold" to "buy" and lifted the target price on the shares to 715p.

It is also bullish on British Energy, up 31p to 548p, after upgrading it from "buy" to "strong buy".

Viridian, 1p lighter at 665p, has been moved from "hold" to "buy" with a target price of 800p. PowerGen, down 16p to 709p, is also on Warburg's shopping list, having moved from a "hold" to a "buy" for the shares. But it is sticking with its target price of 845p.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones .... 9914.93 (+11.38)
S&P Composite .... 1300.24 (+0.95)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average .... Closed

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 11107.24 (+24.32)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index .... 544.27 (-2.90)

Sydney:
AO .... 2985.5 (+1.0)

Frankfurt:
DAX .... 5027.06 (-72.42)

Singapore:
Straits .... 1497.68 (+24.69)

Brussels:
BEL20 .... 3290.82 (-31.67)

Paris:
CAC-40 .... 4197.06 (-22.59)

Zurich:
SMI Index .... 7153.6 (-54.7)

London:
FT 30 .... 3738.0 (-15.4)
FTSE 100 .... 6152.8 (-10.4)
FTSE 250 .... 5488.4 (-12.6)
FTSE 350 .... 2935.1 (-5.3)
FTSE Eurotop 100 .... 2895.32 (-15.72)
FTSE All-Share .... 2843.04 (-4.14)
FTSE Non Financials .... 2873.93 (+0.54)
FTSE Fixed Interest .... 154.52 (-0.39)
FTSE Govt Secs .... 115.97 (-0.19)
Bargains 86421
SEAQ Volume 932.6m
US$ .... 1.6279 (-0.0013)
Euro .... 0.6699 (-0.0008)
£:SDR 1.1876
Exchange Index .... 103.0 (+0.2)
Bank on England official close (4pm)
RPI .... 163.4 Jan (2.4%) Jan 1987 = 100
RPIX .... 161.8 Jan (2.6%) Jan 1987 = 100

RECENT ISSUES

Axon Group	272½	–	2½
BGI Endowment III	100		...
Enhanced Zero Trust	99¾		...
Gander Properties	7½		...
Gartmore High Income	104		..
Gartmore Zero Div Pf	106½		...
Govett Enhanced Dv Pf	101¼	+	¼
Govett Enhanced Inc	95½	–	¼
Jupiter En Zero Dv Pf	106¾		...
Jupiter Enhanced Inc	100		...
Luminar Warrants	250		...
M Currie Cap Return	72		...
M Currie Portfolio	85½		...
Murray Smlr Mkts B Uts	188½		...
Murray Smlr Mkts Prf	102	+	¼
Murray Smlr Mkts Units	188		...
NBA Quantum	110		...
Sports Internet	125½	–	9
Synstar	144	+	3½

RIGHTS ISSUES

First Tech Cnv Prf n/p (320)	21½		...
Oxford Biomedica n/p (15)	5	–	3½
Waste Recycling n/p (406)	67½	–	6½

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
West Hlthcare	300	+115	+ 62.1
Greycoat	200	+ 31½	+ 18.6
Ranger	256½	+ 38	+ 17.3
Jardine Strat	111¼	+ 14¼	+ 14.6
Action Cp Spls	231	+ 29½	+ 14.6
Jardine Math	224¾	+ 28¼	+ 14.3
Dialog	116	+ 13½	+ 13.1
Nsb Retail Sys	395	+ 43¾	+ 12.4
Anglian Group	286	+ 31½	+ 12.3
Schrod Vent Intl	232½	+ 25½	+ 12.3
Lands Imp	114½	+ 12	+ 11.7
Scotia	106½	+ 11	+ 11.5
Compco	244	+ 24½	+ 11.1
Victoria	100	+ 10	+ 11.1
Sthern Pacific	103¼	+ 10¼	+ 11.0
Diploma	162½	+ 16	+ 10.9
Microgen	132½	+ 13	+ 10.8
Iceland Group	275	+ 25	+ 10.0

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Corp Services	73½	– 11	– 13.0
Alexon	196½	– 24	– 10.8
Boxmore Intl	135	– 12½	– 8.4
Flying Flw Uts	209	– 16	– 7.1
Torex	168½	– 10	– 5.6
Staffware	230	– 12½	– 5.1
Stagecoach	222¾	– 12	– 5.1

TEMPUS

The quest for success

THE shares of Newsquest, the large and successful regional newspaper group created from the amalgamation of cast-offs from Pearson and Reed International, have had a good run recently. The stock has shrugged off worries about recession, which badly undermined its stock last autumn, to power on to a record high.

The likelihood of a soft landing in Newsquest's microeconomies is key. But it is also doing a lot of things right. New newspapers have been launched, both paid for and free. More interestingly, Newsquest is exploiting the Internet in genuinely exciting ways. For Newsquest the Internet is not just newspapers in another form, but a new whole new vista of business opportunities.

One of these is Auction Hunter.co.uk. It is an extension to local newspapers' role in classified advertising. And in less than three months more than 3,000 people have registered to auction off collectibles such as Dinky toys. There have already been 10,000 items sold. Newsquest is also in with a decent chance of winning the bid battle for Portsmouth & Sunderland Newspapers. As a white knight it will be easier to win the hearts of the P&S board, although the purchase price could be high. Its, and rivals' offers, are currently with the competition authorities.

Jim Brown, the executive chairman, has every right to complain that shares in his company trade at a discount to Johnston Press, which has shown little interest in the Internet. Unless there is a sudden collapse in the admittedly volatile advertising and consumer markets, however, the shares' good run should continue. Buy.

Westminster Health Care

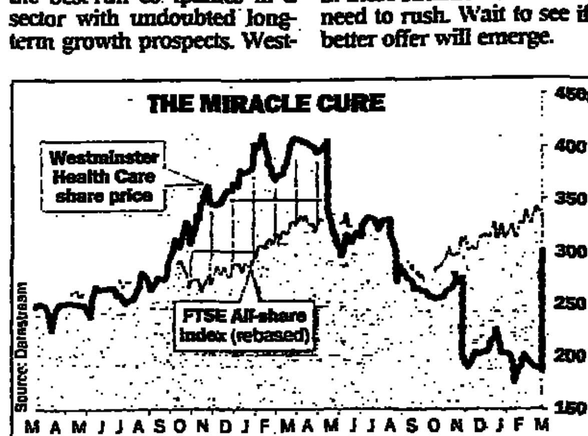
WHETHER it's the World Cup, the death of Princess Diana or that old favourite the weather, companies are forever finding excuses for their problems. But top for the flops at the moment is undoubtedly the City's apathy towards small companies, which Westminster Health Care yesterday cited as its reason for cashing in its chips with Chai Patel and Goldman Sachs.

Blaming the City's short-termism is a bit rich. Shares in this nursing home group peaked only last year. The real reason for the slump in its shares is two profit warnings in the space of six months.

Not much has gone right for Westminster since its failed bid for Goldsborough two and a half years ago. Earnings per share have gone backwards and investors' enthusiasm has been sapped. The difficulties of dealing with cash-strapped local authorities prompted a move into psychiatric care, but this has not gone smoothly.

Despite the setbacks, Westminster is regarded as one of the best-run companies in a sector with undoubted long-term growth prospects. Westminster has decided to sell out to Dr Patel, who is clearly more committed to the nursing homes industry than Westminster's own management.

The company has conducted a private auction and obviously feels 311p a share is as good as it can get. But, as ever in these situations, there is no need to rush. Wait to see if a better offer will emerge.



Morgan Crucible

SHARES of Morgan Crucible dropped 30 per cent in January when it gave warning that profits for 1998 would be 15 to 20 per cent less than for 1997. That reaction looked overdone at the time and the shares in the carbon and ceramic components maker recovered most of the lost ground prior to publication of results. Hence the muted reaction when Morgan's profits came out at the better end of expectations yesterday.

Ian Norris, chief executive, has impressed by taking swift action to tackle the problems that led to the profit warning. Some might say that the nascent recovery in its markets means that Morgan need not have restructured. In fact, shareholders should be grateful that the bad times persisted long enough to force the company into making deep-rooted changes. Unpleasant one-off costs will flow, certainly, but the benefits of the cost cutting should be seen more quickly.

It is worth sticking with Morgan. The businesses are generally well placed in its markets and management is doing its best to focus on the strongest areas. There had been rumours that a bidder such as BBA might buy the cash-generative Morgan. That likelihood is receding but bolt-on acquisitions, or a buyback should fuel earnings per share growth.

Morgan is not yet a premier division player, but with the shares trading on nine-and-a-half times expected earnings, it has solid prospects. Hold.

TT Group

TT GROUP is a company whose *raison d'être* is an aggressive acquisitions strategy. But shareholders appear to believe that they will be best served if Hall Engineering, its latest target, escapes. To win Hall, TT will need to lift its offer by at least 50 per cent, paying a price widely considered to be excessive.

The lingering prospect of TT digging too deep for Hall combines with the general malaise overhanging the engineering sector to keep a lid on the company's share price. This is at the expense of TT's operational solidity.

TT's unfavourable market perception is highlighted by the company's prospective price/earnings multiple of eight. This is low even by engineering sector standards, where most comparable companies are trading on at least ten times future earnings. TT's yield of 5 per cent is double the market average and positively insulting for a company that wants to be a growth stock.

It looks as if it will be sometime before TT is appreciated in the way its board would wish. As an investment, it remains unattractive.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE



COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	804-802	May	908-907
May	807-806	Jul	920 BID
Jul	825-824	Sep	940 SLR
Sep	843-842	Dec	960 SLR
Dec	867-866		

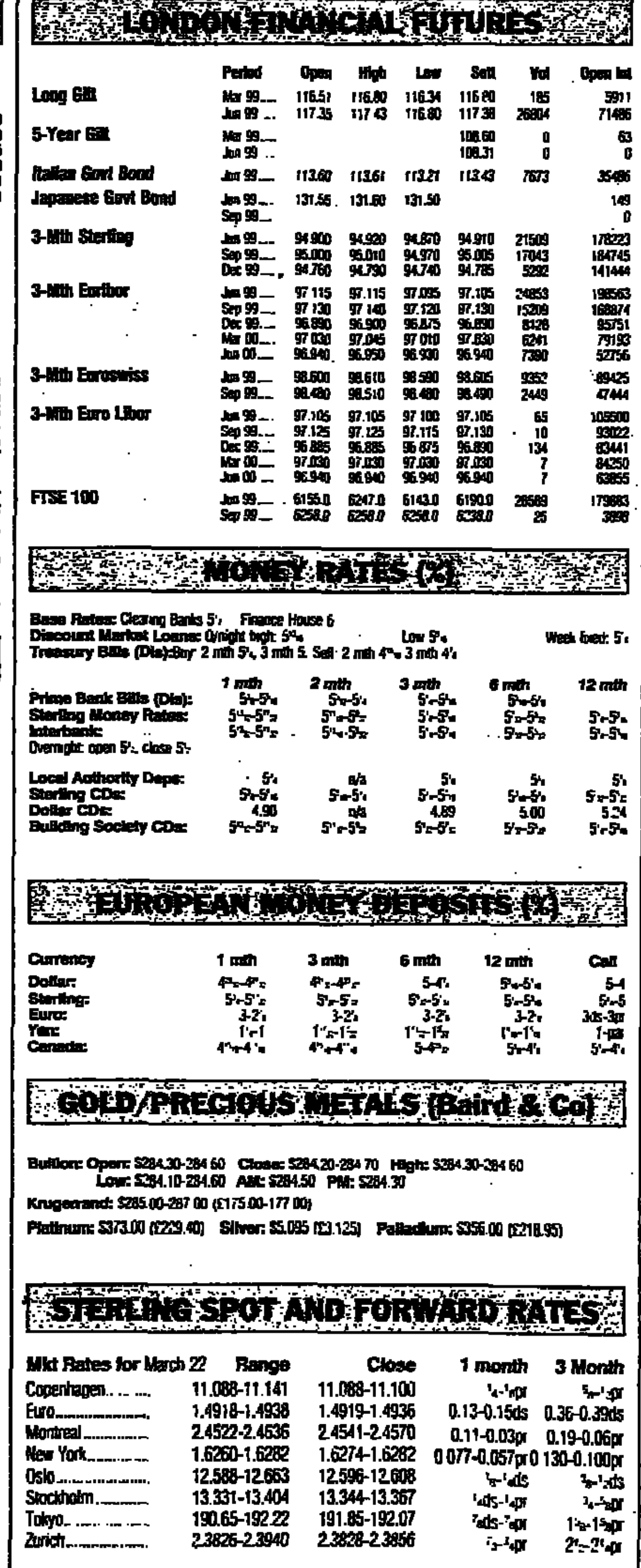
ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)
CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	13.25	+0.10
Brent 15 day (May)	13.55	+0.10
Brent 15 day (Jun)	13.55	+0.10
W Texas Intermediate (May)	15.30	+0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	15.25	+0.10

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	72.50	Mar	74.50
May	74.10	May	75.00
Jul	76.00	Sep	73.75
Sep	75.00	Nov	76.00
Nov	76.75	Jan	78.00

LIFFE OPTIONS



LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Mar 99	116.51	116.80	116.34	116.80	185	5911
	Jun 99	117.35	117.43	116.80	117.38	26804	71486
5-Year Gilt	Mar 99				108.60	0	63
	Jun 99				108.31	0	0
Italian Govt Bond	Jun 99	113.60	113.61	113.21	113.43	7673	35486
Japanese Govt Bond	Jun 99	131.55	131.60	131.50			149
	Sep 99						0
3-Mth Sterling	Jun 99	94.900	94.920	94.870	94.910	21509	178223
	Sep 99	95.000	95.010	94.970	95.005	17043	184745
	Dec 99	94.760	94.790	94.740	94.785	5292	141444
3-Mth Euribor	Jun 99	97.115	97.115	97.095	97.105	24853	198563
	Sep 99	97.130	97.140	97.120	97.130	15209	168874
	Dec 99	96.890	96.900	96.875	96.890	8128	95751
	Mar 00	97.030	97.045	97.010	97.030	6241	79193
	Jun 00	96.940	96.950	96.930	96.940	7380	52756
3-Mth Euroswiss	Jun 99	98.600	98.610	98.590	98.605	9352	89425
	Sep 99	98.490	98.510	98.480	98.490	2449	47444
3-Mth Euro Libor	Jun 99	97.105	97.105	97.100	97.105	65	105500
	Sep 99	97.125	97.125	97.115	97.130	10	93022
	Dec 99	96.885	96.885	96.875	96.890	134	83441
	Mar 00	97.030	97.030	97.030	97.030	7	84250
	Jun 00	96.940	96.940	96.940	96.940	7	63855
FTSE 100	Jun 99	6155.0	6247.0	6143.0	6190.0	28589	179883
	Sep 99	6258.0	6258.0	6258.0	6238.0	25	3898

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 5½ Finance House 6
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: [illegible] Low [illegible] Week fixed: [illegible]
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy 2 mth [illegible], 3 mth 5. Sell 2 mth [illegible] 3 mth [illegible]

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Overnight: open [illegible] close [illegible]					
Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	4.90	n/a	4.89	5.00	5.24
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
Sterling:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	3ds-3pr
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par
Canada:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

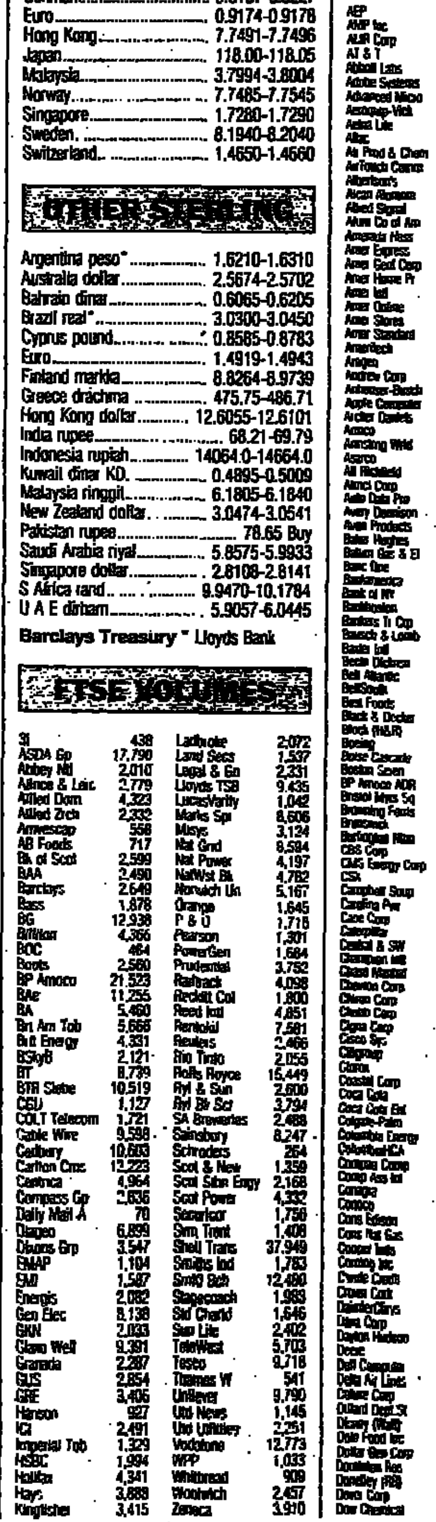
GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open: $284.30-284.60 Close: $284.20-284.70 High: $284.30-284.60
Low: $284.10-284.60 AM: $284.50 PM: $284.30
Krugerrand: $285.00-287.00 (£175.00-177.00)
Platinum: $373.00 (£229.40) Silver: $5.095 (£3.125) Palladium: $356.00 (£218.95)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for March 22	Range	Close	1 month	3 Month
Copenhagen	11.088-11.141	11.088-11.100	¼-⅛pr	⅝-⅜pr
Euro	1.4918-1.4938	1.4919-1.4936	0.13-0.15ds	0.36-0.39ds
Montreal	2.4522-2.4536	2.4541-2.4570	0.11-0.03pr	0.19-0.06pr
New York	1.6260-1.6282	1.6274-1.6282	0.077-0.057pr	0.130-0.100pr
Oslo	12.588-12.663	12.596-12.608	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Stockholm	13.331-13.404	13.344-13.367	¼ds-¼pr	[illegible]pr
Tokyo	190.65-192.22	191.85-192.07	[illegible]ds-[illegible]pr	1[illegible]-1[illegible]pr
Zurich	2.3826-2.3940	2.3828-2.3856	[illegible]pr	2[illegible]-2[illegible]pr

Source: Extel Premium = pr Discount = ds



DOLLAR RATES

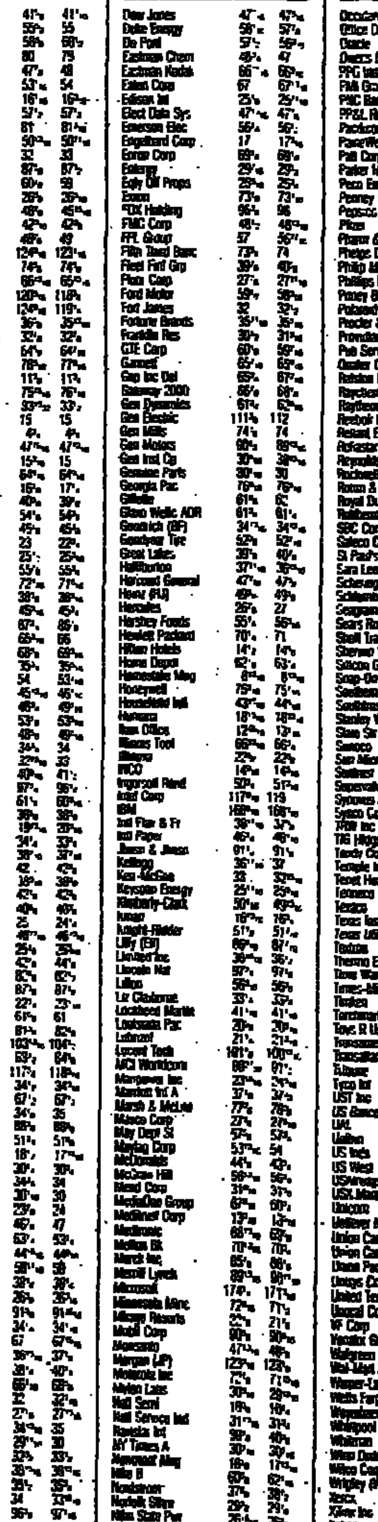
Australia	1.5780-1.5792
Canada	1.5070-1.5080
Denmark	6.8187-6.8227
Euro	0.9174-0.9178
Hong Kong	7.7491-7.7496
Japan	118.00-118.05
Malaysia	3.7994-3.8004
Norway	7.7485-7.7545
Singapore	1.7280-1.7290
Sweden	8.1940-8.2040
Switzerland	1.4650-1.4660

OTHER STERLING

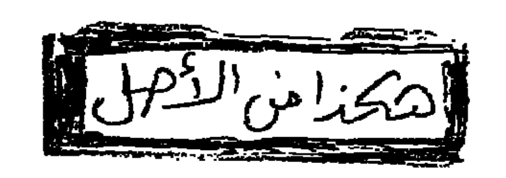
Argentina peso*	1.6210-1.6310
Australia dollar	2.5674-2.5702
Bahrain dinar	0.6065-0.6205
Brazil real*	3.0300-3.0450
Cyprus pound	0.8585-0.8783
Euro	1.4919-1.4943
Finland markka	8.8264-8.9739
Greece drachma	475.75-486.71
Hong Kong dollar	12.6055-12.6101
India rupee	68.21-69.79
Indonesia rupiah	14064.0-14664.0
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4895-0.5009
Malaysia ringgit	6.1805-6.1840
New Zealand dollar	3.0474-3.0541
Pakistan rupee	78.65 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8575-5.9933
Singapore dollar	2.8108-2.8141
S Africa rand	9.9470-10.1784
U A E dirham	5.9057-6.0445

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES



WALL STREET



ECONOMIC VIEW — ANATOLE KALETSKY

Dow's past portrays all its bulls running out of steam

Talk of a bubble on Wall Street is premature but the exalted price of shares cannot last

With the Dow Jones Industrial Average challenging the previously unthinkable target of 10,000, predictions of impending calamity — not only for Wall Street, but also for America and the entire world economy — are becoming widespread, as they have at each of the previous symbolic milestones of this great bull market.

The American media, bored with non-eventful Year 2000 stories, have suddenly discovered Dow 10,000. This time, however, the Jeremiahs are being drowned out by the cries of jubiliation from the many brave American investors who ignored the bearish conventional wisdom and the self-satisfied sniggers of the small band of Wall Street analysts who have stubbornly, and correctly, stuck to their bullish instincts since the start of this record-breaking rally in early 1995.

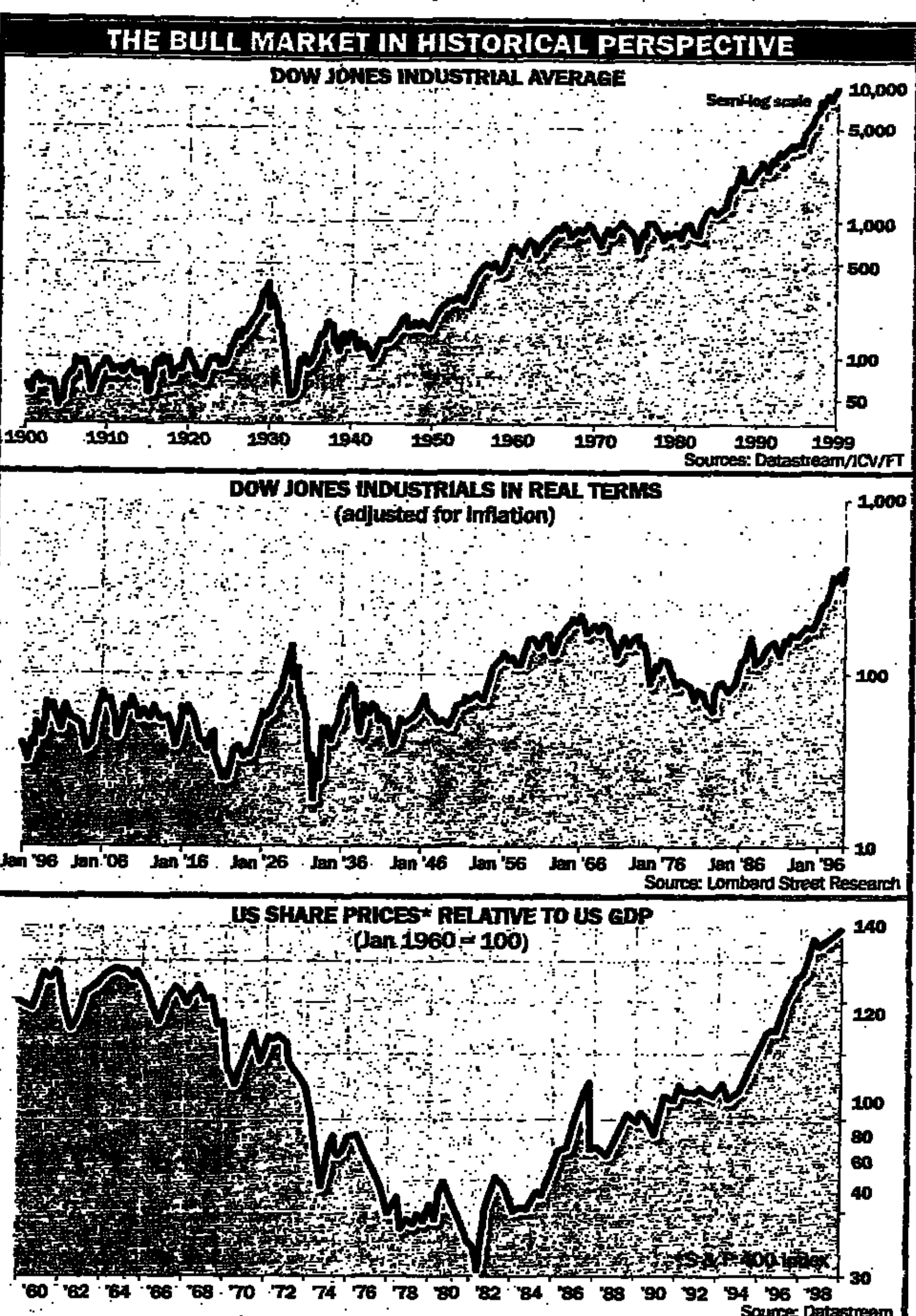
The question now is whether the spectacular performance of the American economy (which three months ago was thought by most of the so-called experts to be on the verge of a slowdown or even a depression) will vindicate the optimists yet again. My hunch is "yes, but only in the short term".

The bull market will probably go even higher in the next month or two. Wall Street could easily gain another 10 per cent or so in response to three factors.

As American companies start announcing their quarterly results in early April, the bearish analysts and investors who had expected disastrous consequences for corporate America from last year's Asian and Russian financial crises will finally be forced to throw in the towel. The fact is that, the global financial crisis was never going to be more than a pinprick for American companies as long as the Federal Reserve and the Clinton administration stuck firmly to monetary and fiscal policies that sustained demand.

The second big factor that could sustain the bull market in the short term is simply the weight of money still waiting on the sidelines in the hope of finding a better opportunity to buy American shares at a "more reasonable" price.

American individual investors are still pouring unprecedented sums of money into their personal pension plans (belying the nonsensical statistics which claim to show that Americans have forgotten how to save) — and much of this money is still waiting to be allocated to shares.



An even more important bullish factor is the misfortune and incompetence of so many professional investors — especially the hapless British fund managers based in the City of London — who have consistently failed to understand the forces driving the American market and have consequently missed out on the greatest financial event of their careers.

Little by little, these intransigent "perma-bears" are being forced to admit their mistake and to start buying shares on Wall Street. As these bearish foreign fund managers capitulate and buy shares on Wall Street almost regardless of price, the US stock market may be driven ever higher in the kind of speculative climax that typically characterises the final phase of a great bull market.

The third, and most important positive factor, is that, while share prices on Wall Street are certainly expensive by historic standards, they are not yet as wildly "overvalued" as many investors believe. Internet, computer and telecommunications stocks are unquestionably in a bubble. Today's arguments about Internet valuations are identical to those heard in The Netherlands during the tulip mania and in Japan during the bubble economy of the late Eighties: Companies such as Amazon.com, Dell, Yahoo! and AOL have no proprietary technologies, operate in markets with very low barriers to entry and enjoy only marginal brand loyalty. Just as there is no rational limit to their valuation on the way up, there will be no rational floor to how far they can fall on the way down.

Moving beyond the technology sector, however, the claims about a Wall Street bubble, so popular among the wiseacres in the City of London, are much less persuasive. For top quality businesses with good long-term growth prospects, the Dow's present valuation of 25.3 times last year's earnings, or 21.4 times average earnings estimates for 1999, is high by historic standards, but not completely unreasonable, especially if US Treasury bonds, the main alternative investment, continue to yield only 5 per cent or so.

This also becomes clear if Wall Street's present level is considered from a long-term historical perspective. While it may seem ridiculous that stock market prices have increased tenfold since 1982, when the Dow was only at 1,000, the fact is that the great bull market of the past 17 years was not all that unusual by historic standards. In fact, if we look back to the day when the Dow first reached 1,000, which was January 18, 1966, it becomes clear that the tenfold increase in prices on Wall Street has really been achieved over 33 years, not 17. That amounts to a compound annual increase of only 7.2 per cent, less than 2.5 per cent above the average rate of inflation in that period.

The second chart, derived from a study by Alex Skinner of Lombard Street Research, offers the correct perspective. This shows that the Dow, when adjusted for inflation, has only just reached the top of a channel rising at a rate of 2.1 per cent, well below the US economy's average real growth rate of 3.1 per cent since 1966.

My third chart, which shows a broader measure of stock market performance, the S&P 400 industrials index, shows that this broader range of companies has advanced a little faster than the US economy. But even on this calculation, the present level of the market is only 20 or 30 per cent higher than its typical level in the early 1960s. US shares are certainly expensive, but they are still nowhere near the speculative extremes reached, for instance, in Japan ten years ago.

Why, then, the popular misconception that the stock market is now at some completely unprecedented speculative extreme? The best explanation is simply that the 33-year period since the Dow's last true peak in 1966 has been divided into two very different halves. In the first 16 years, from 1966 until 1982, stock market investors suffered almost continuous losses in a savage bear market, which, when adjusted for inflation, was almost as bad as the crash of 1929-1933. The following 17 years were, by contrast, a period of steady recovery. And the point has now been reached where the market has returned, in real terms to around the trend that had previously been touched in the peaks of 1906, 1929 and 1966.

That, of course, can hardly be construed as good news for investors. Each of those peaks was followed by a stock market fall of 25 per cent or more, followed by a long period of directionless trading in which values were gradually whittled away by inflation. Could the same thing happen now?

There is obviously nothing pre-ordained about the trend lines drawn in the second chart or about the valuations relative to GDP shown in the third. There is no reason, in principle, why share prices should not rise permanently above the sort of valuations that have prevailed for the past 100 years. What cannot be disputed is that Wall Street has now completed its recovery from the troughs of the 1970s and 1980s. In this sense the "easy" part of the bull market is clearly behind. And history, which remains our only real guide to the future, suggests that shares are almost certain to suffer a serious setback, probably taking them back towards the middle of the channel in which they have traded for the past century.

In sum, it remains quite likely that share prices will keep rising in the short term. But the higher they move, the further they will eventually fall. It is worth recalling the health warning at the bottom of most financial advertisements: "Shares should be seen as a long-term investment and not as a short-term speculation." In the present circumstances this view should be exactly reversed: buying shares at these levels may pay off as a short-term speculation, but they should not be viewed as a long-term investment.

Shares are now so expensive that, even though further large short-term gains are possible, they are unlikely to be sustained. Shares bought at these exalted levels may perform not much better in the years ahead than they did in the decades that followed the Dow reaching 100 in 1906 and 1,000 in 1966. That cautionary message should be remembered, even if Wall Street races past the Dow 10,000 milestone.

Finding the right formula for branding fast cars

JASON NISSÉ — MARKET LEADER

Ferrari is one. McLaren has made a half-hearted attempt to become one. Ducati has a stated objective of developing one. Now Williams has decided that it is ready to make itself one. What are they? Motor racing brands.

This week Williams — one of the most successful Formula One teams of the modern era, having won nine world constructors championships — will relaunch itself as Williams F1. This might seem like a logical rebranding, but it is a massive change of emphasis for the team run by Sir Frank Williams and Patrick Head.

Until now Williams has called itself Williams Grand Prix Engineering, reflecting the team history, starting with a group of oily ragged mechanics in the 1970s. The decision to drop the word "engineering" from the brand followed a great deal of soul searching within Williams, and Jim Wright, head of marketing at Williams, said that there was a great deal of concern at how this would go down among the engineers, who make up the vast majority of Williams's 293 employees.

However, it was explained to them that the European ban on tobacco advertising was bound to hit Williams's revenues. Just under half of Williams's sponsorship income comes from Rothmans, its lead sponsor, which chooses to push Winfield, its subsidiary cigarette brand, through the sponsorship.

Two changes will hit this. Firstly, the ban on tobacco advertising — which will affect Formula One during the 2003 season. Secondly, Rothmans is in the process of merging with BAT, which owns its own Formula One team, British American Racing. The cost of BAR will no doubt have an impact on how much the combined BAT/Rothmans would be willing to target at Williams.

Williams reckons it can find a non-tobacco sponsor to replace Winfield/Rothmans. However, as quite a few other teams with tobacco sponsors — including McLaren, Jordan and Benetton — are pursuing similar aims and some top teams — such as Arrows — are finding, it is difficult securing a sponsor even for this season.

This is one of the reasons why Williams has decided it needs a brand. It feels that it should start generating other sources of income as money is the fuel for Formula One success these days.

The new brand and logo has been developed for Williams by Corporate Edge, those design consultants who brought us the PowerGen symbol of what looks like a woman holding a piece of plutonium, the CGU brand created when Commercial Union merged with General Accident, and Egg which, love it or hate it, is one of the most successful financial brand launches in recent history.

Chris Wood, the director of Corporate Edge who is working with Williams, believes that the Williams brand has certain "core values" that can be used for products other than racing cars. These include dedication, innovation, flair, integrity and fun.

The sort of products Mr Wood believes could be branded Williams include high-performance motor products — oil in particular — electronic products — such as hi-fis, mobile phones and laptop computers — watches and clothes. Unlike McLaren, which has developed a sportscar and a hi-fi for the super-rich consumer (and received some bad publicity when one of its tycoon customers died when he crashed his McLaren), Williams sees its product range going more towards the mid-market.

Williams's name has been used outside the industry just once before. When Renault made engines for Williams it brought out a Renault Clio Williams, which proved highly popular but was discontinued when Renault pulled out of Formula One. BMW will be supplying engineers for Williams from next season. As BMW already has two performance car brands — the M series and the Alpina joint venture — it will not be launching a BMW Williams. This probably makes it easier for Williams to develop its brand independently. Expect products in the shops before the end of the season.

☐ On the subject of BMW, its financial services arm has been pretty active in the sponsorship of contemporary art. The business was launched as a stand-alone operation only two years ago. Petra Kemp, its chief executive, thought a good way of raising its profile was to back some fairly controversial exhibitions, such as the Piero Manzoni at the Serpentine Gallery, the centrepiece of which was a series of tins containing faeces.

It has now signed a new deal with the National Galleries of Scotland in which it is supporting the new Dean Gallery in Edinburgh. It is also providing a bus shuttle service from the centre of Edinburgh to the Dean. Just one problem. BMW doesn't make buses.

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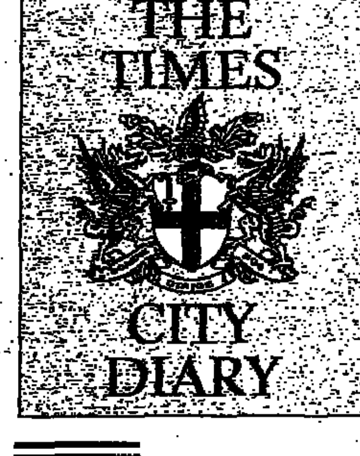


WEBSITE: www.williamsF1.co.uk



Alex Zanardi sporting a helmet with the new Williams brand

Flying feathers



MICHAEL Cannon knows a thing or two about pubs. Having bought his first hostelry at the age of 26 for £10,000, he went on to amass a not-so-small fortune from building Devenish and the Magic Pub Co into significant businesses then selling out at a huge profit to bigger rivals.

Last year, Cannon returned to the fray in some style, snapping up Morrells, the Oxford brewer, for £48 million, and paying a further £27 million or so acquiring Fuddruckers, the US hamburger chain.

Cannon: may upset real ale buffs

And now I hear that he may have set his sights on Morland of Abingdon, purveyor of Old Speckled Hen and Ruddles ales and reputedly a runner-up to Cannon in the bidding for Morrells.

It could just be tap room banter, but the word is that Cannon is pondering a plan to reverse Morrells into the quoted Morland to create a group with almost 500 pubs. As with Morrells, the Morland brewery would probably be closed and the brewing of its ales farmed out to a contract brewer.

Such a move would cause a furore among real ale enthusiasts — there is even an Old Speckled Hen Society — although there are vague whispers that Shepherd Neame, the Kent brewer and a favourite of the sandal-wearing fraternity, could yet enter the bidding and save the day.

MY latest edition of Property Week *informs me that Gordon Edington, group property director at BAA, has made it on to the shortlist of the Property Personality of the Year award. Yet, as a news report in the same magazine points out, Edington left the company earlier this month — one of some 50 casualties in the wake of BAA's decision to scrap a planned demerger of its Lynton property development arm. A sympathy vote perhaps?*

Off piste

ST MORITZ has been the spiritual home of winter sports ever since we Brits (of all people) invented them there in 1865. And for 101 of those 134 years the Badrutt family has been dispensing hospitality to the rich and famous. George Soros, Tina Turner, Ivana Trump and Princess Caroline of Monaco are all regulars at the Badrutt's Palace Hotel.

In recent months there have been persistent rumours that the current generation was planning to sell up. Although that is not, in fact, the case, it is true that the Badrutts are to take a back seat by handing over management of the 234-room property to Rosewood Hotels, which runs the Lanesborough in London and the Mansion on Turtle Creek in Dallas.

The 20-year contract, signed yesterday, is the first success for Marten Foxon, the former Forte Hotels property director, who these days travels the world looking for deals for Maritz Wolff, the US investment firm that owns 50 per cent of Rosewood.

LEAFING through the Chesterfield Properties circular to shareholders I am saddened to see that the company has headquarters in Mayfair and has no properties in Chesterfield. This, of course, is a fine tradition in the property sector. Derwent Valley Holdings, for example, no longer owns the famous Derwent Valley railway or anything else in that part of the world, while Cardiff Properties, which is based in Surrey, owns nothing in Wales.

Unholy vision

THE decision of the former butler Michael Hardern to swap his job as carpetbagger for a one-man campaign to restore the Holy Roman Empire should prove of interest to the Hapsburg family. According to one of my more scholarly colleagues, the Hapsburgs can lay direct claim to the sadly defunct title of Holy Roman Emperor.

These days the family is busy expounding its vision of Europe in Strasbourg. The 86-year-old Otto Von Hapsburg — the son of the last Austrian Emperor — has long been an MEP for the Bavarian Christian Social Union. Unfortunately, his position appears to be under threat after comments likening critics of the family's political ambitions to Hitler.

However, the family torch will continue to be borne by his son Karl, an MEP for the Austrian People's Party, while his daughter, Walpurga Hapsburg-Douglas, is thinking of running in Sweden. All three are heavily involved with the Paneuropa Movement, which officially aims to promote European unity, although cynics chide it has far more to do with the restoration of the Hapsburgs.

Sadly for Mr Hardern, it again looks as if his plans are going to blocked by long-established vested interests.

DOMINIC WALSH



"I thought it was just the French who are trying to buy Gucci"

ScotPower confirms plans for telecom flotation

By Robert Lea

SCOTTISHPOWER, the multi-utility, appeared to confirm yesterday that the expected £1.5 billion flotation of its Scottish Telecom subsidiary will take place this year.

Ian Russell, finance director, was reported by City analysts to have said that the flotation of Scottish Telecom was "on the table" on that it would probably *take place in the* fourth quarter, depending on market conditions.

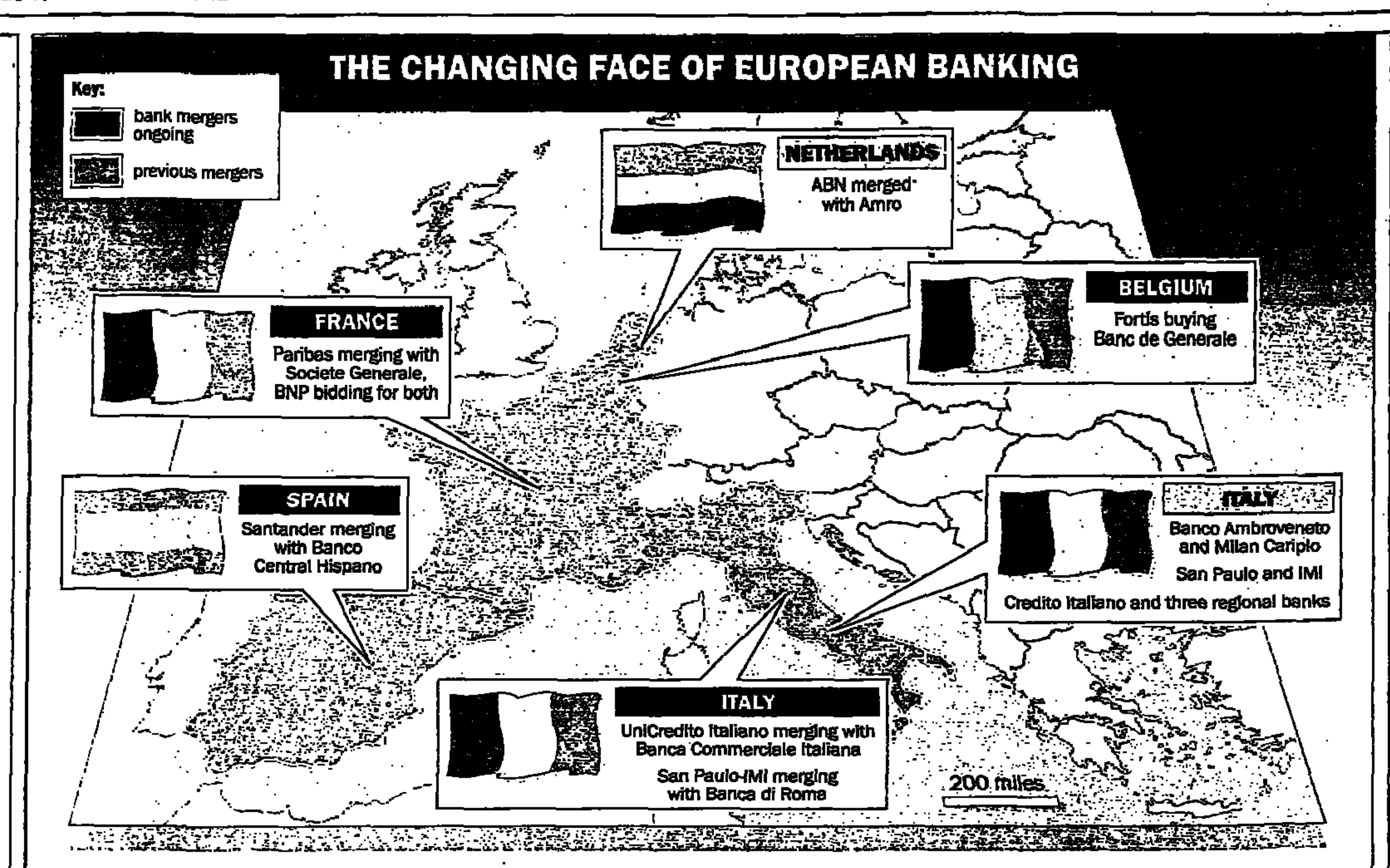
There had been intense speculation about a possible timescale for the flotation and sector watchers said that this was the first time that ScottishPower had provided the investment community with a window in which a possible flotation could occur.

ScottishPower last month *admitted that it had hired* Goldman Sachs, the Wall Street investment bank, to explore the options to optimise value for its shareholders from its investment in Scottish Telecom, whose business was significantly expanded last year through the acquisition of Demon, one of the UK's main Internet service providers.

Some analysts believe Scottish Telecom could be worth as much as £2 billion if the City's enthusiasm for Internet stocks continues. ScottishPower itself is valued at £6.7 billion.

Terms of the flotation are likely to be broadly similar in character to the relationship between National *Grid and Energis, its tele*coms offshoot.

Meanwhile, Shares of Scoot.com rose 4p to 29½p after the company confirmed that it had entered an agreement with Energis to enhance public access to its business subscribers. Scoot.com estimated that the agreement could generate £21 million in additional revenue each year. Turnover was just over £15 million in the year to September 30.



Consolidation in the European banking sector appears to be far from finished, with analysts expecting further big mergers this year

Surprise mergers unveiled by Italian banking quartet

Caroline Merrell reports on the renewed outbreak of bid fever that has taken a grip on Europe

BID fever gripped the European banking sector yesterday as two mergers between four of Italy's biggest banks were revealed.

UniCredito Italiano is bidding for Banca Commerciale Italiano to create a £25 billion bank called Eurobanca, while San Paulo-IMI is planning to merge with Banca di Roma to create a £20 billion bank.

The two link-ups took the Italian banking sector by surprise, not least because until very recently, BCI had been poised to merge with Banca di Roma. The marriage between the two was called off amid much acrimony just two weeks ago.

The *BCI/Banca di Roma* deal was being negotiated by Mediobanca, a merchant bank dubbed the puppet master of corporate Italy. Shares in Mediobanca, headed by 92-year-old Enrico Cuccia, were temporarily suspended yesterday after an initial 10 per cent gain.

Deals in Italy, it is said, are not carried out without Snr Cuccia's permission. But analysts said yesterday that the two banking mergers marked *the beginning of the end of Me*diobanca's influence on the Italian business scene. Some were claiming that Mediobanca itself could become the subject of a takeover bid.

The announcement of the two deals, which comes after an already completed round of *banking consolidation in the* country, sparked off a fresh bout of merger speculation in the European banking sector. Already this year a mega-merger between Santander and BCH in Spain has been announced, while in France, a three-way deal between Société Générale, Paribas and BNP is currently on the table.



Profumo: no conflict

In the UK, merger speculation has been less frenetic, though one analyst yesterday reckoned that the arrival of Mike O'Neill from Bank of America to head up Barclays this week would be sure to reignite UK banking merger speculation.

Alessandro Profumo, the *UniCredito Italiano managing* director, said that its proposed union with BCI will not create conflicts of interest between rival shareholders of the two banks. "If the shareholders have an interest in increasing the value of their investment, I don't think they will have a *conflict of interest," he said.*

Shares in Banca di Roma soared more than 12 per cent at the open in Milan yesterday, while shares in BCI rose more than 10 per cent initially. Shares in the two predators fell, with San Paolo 4 per cent down and UniCredito shares 5 per cent lower.

BCI has yet to reveal its position on *UniCredito's bid. Mean*while, Cesare Geronzi, Banca di Roma's chairman, said his bank would examine San Paolo's bid carefully. San Paolo said the merger with Roma, the largest bank in southern Italy, would "create a group of European dimensions able to exploit *a substantial commercial pres*ence in Italy based on strong geographical synergies".

Now analysts are looking to next wave of mergers with the likelihood, perhaps, of these being cross-border. Dresdner, from Germany, has been mentioned as a possible bidder in *the French market* — a move that the French Government is opposed to — while Germany's Commerzbank has been rumoured to be interested in buying up Flemings in the UK. The rumour yesterday was denied by the German bank.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Rugby poised to sell joinery business

RUGBY GROUP, the building materials company, confirmed yesterday that it is talking to "a number of parties" over the sale of its £300 million-rated joinery business. Rugby is planning to sell its joinery operations in order to concentrate on its main cement business. The company reported last month that it was in merger talks with Adelaide Brighton, the Australian cement group.

The joinery business, which includes Boulton & Paul, the company that Rugby acquired just two years ago, was the subject of a profits warning in November, when the *company said* that disappointing volumes were running well below expectations and that this meant that second-half profits were unlikely to come in above first-half levels. Rugby sold its Pioneer Plastics laminates business in the US for £105 million in December. Details of the joinery business *sale are expected next week, when the compa*ny reports its full-year results.

Anglian shares surge

SHARES of Anglian Group, the conservatories and replacement windows and doors company, leaped 31½p to 256p yesterday, after the company said that it would be making a spe*cial 50p a share* payout as a result of its previously announced balance sheet reorganisation. The £44 million payout is funded from the group's cash reserves, which have grown from £40.6 million, reported at the interim stage. Eddie Boss, chief executive of Anglian, said that the full-year results should "exceed market expectations".

Ramco allays oil fears

RAMCO ENERGY, the oil independent in the Caspian and central and eastern Europe regions, said yesterday that its strong balance sheet and flexible operating policy should protect it from further turbulence in the oil markets. The compa*ny which currently has £32 million of cash reserves* made a pre-tax loss of £465,000 in 1998 after £607,000 of redundancy costs against a profit of £484,000 the previous year. Losses per share came in at 3.35p against 1.49p per shares earnings in 1997. The company is not paying a dividend.

Britannia builds

BRITANNIA GROUP, the Cheltenham-based construction company, said yesterday that the levels of business it was attracting remain satisfactory and ahead of more cautious industry forecasts. The company is increasing the total dividend for the year by 50 per cent to 2.1p after paying a final dividend of 1.5p. Earnings per share rose to 11p (3.2p) after the company reported pre-tax profits for 1998 of £3.16 million, a fourfold rise on 1997.

Asda Property ahead

ASDA PROPERTY struck a bullish note yesterday at its full-year results saying that 1999 had seen a marked return of confidence in the property market sparked by low interest rates and strong demand. The company made pre-tax profits of £11.3 million in 1998 against £9.6 million a year earlier and had earnings per share of 11.3p (9.6p). The final dividend of *2.3p lifted the total dividend to 3.25p (3p), while the company's* net asset value stood at 221p a share, up from 188p in 1997.

Jarvis signs £12m deal

JARVIS, the road and rail maintenance group, has won a £12 million contract over three years to provide new roadside sign technology for the Highways Agency. The contract, through *Jarvis's Techspan Systems subsidiary, is to install several* hundred variable message signs for motorways and trunk roads that can change from displaying traffic signs to providing text messages in an effort to alleviate traffic congestion.

Birkby acquires sites

BIRKBY, the Birmingham-based company that rents out *light industrial units, said yesterday that it had acquired an* aggregate 11 workspace sites in recent weeks for a total of £5.9 million. Kim Taylor-Smith, the chief executive, also reported that demand for space remains buoyant and occupancy levels at both existing and new sites is up year on year.

Granada's Nile win

GRANADA'S Méridien Hotels chain is to take to the water after winning a contract to operate two luxury cruise *boats (Dominic Walsh writes).*

The company will operate the Nile cruiseliners *Tut*, which has 80 cabins, and the 48-cabin *Aton* under an agreement with the Egyptian General Authority for Tourism and Hotels.

Bernard Lambert, managing director of Méridien, said *that the "sailing hotels" would* be a useful adjunct to its hotels in Cairo as tourism in Egypt rose to previous levels. Terrorist attacks have badly affected its tourism industry.

Prestbury pays £40m for Butlers Wharf site

By Robert Lea

BUTLERS WHARF, Sir Terence Conran's ambitious office and residential development by Tower Bridge in London which went into receivership in 1990, has been bought by Prestbury Group, the property investment vehicle of Nick Leslau.

Prestbury announced yesterday that it is paying £40 million to KP, a Danish pension fund, for the main Butlers Wharf building, which not only houses 82 apartments but *also Sir Terence's well known* restaurants Pont de la Tour, Cantina and ChopHouse.

According to a spokesman for the group, the Prestbury plan is to go into Butlers Wharf, refurbish the flats, which are generally on short leases of between three months and two years, and lease them on. The property currently brings in net income of £2.3 million of which £620,000, rising soon to £825,000, comes from commercial *elements.*

Butlers Wharf, originally developed by Sir Terence, went into receivership at Christmas 1990 owing Midland Bank £50 million. The receivers sold on the main building to KP, which has other property interests along the Thames, for £20 million in the summer of 1992. Other property and land adjacent to Butlers Wharf was sold on by the receivers to Frogmore Estates, the London developer, three years later.

Prestbury was founded a couple of years ago by Mr Leslau, an associate of Nigel Wray, the property multi-millionaire.

Fast-track hope lifts Scotia

By Paul Durman

SHARES in Scotia Holdings yesterday rose 13 per cent to 108p as the drug development company said the US Food and Drug Administration will consider fast-track approval for Foscan, its laser-activated cancer drug.

This could enable Foscan to be approved for treating patients dying of head and neck cancer in about a year, six months ahead of schedule.

Scotia intends to file for marketing approval in the US and Europe by the end of September. Rob Dow, chief executive, said that fast-track designation demonstrated that the FDA believes that Foscan addresses an unmet medical need.

☐ Core Group, the drug delivery company, is considering seeking a buyer after losing almost 90 per cent of its value since flotation two years ago. The City values it at £10.9 million, less than the £15.1 million of cash held in December. Losses last year rose to £5.9 million (£4.7 million).

Monument opens door to potential merger deals

By Carl Mortished
International Business Editor

MONUMENT Oil & Gas opened the door to potential bidders yesterday when its chairman announced that the company would seek opportunities to add value for shareholders through mergers.

The oil exploration group, whose chief executive is Tim Eggar, the former Tory Energy Minister, said that it would seek to participate in the restructuring of the oil industry.

Tony Craven Walker, chairman of Monument, said that combining strengths through industry mergers was to be encouraged. "We shall be seeking ways of benefiting from restructuring to complement the company's strengths and improve shareholder return."

Monument's operating profits halved last year to £17.6 million mainly as a result of the collapse in the oil price, but the company also suffered from a shutdown at Liverpool Bay after an oil spill. Net profit plunged to £7.5 million from £19.6 million in 1997.

PETER TREVNOR



Tim Eggar with Liz Airey, finance director of Monument, which saw operating profits halve

Mr Craven Walker said that Monument was more positive than others in the industry about oil price prospects. "We do not believe that production can be maintained at the low prices seen in recent months." However, he said that a sustained recovery might not occur for some months.

Monument gave warning that low oil prices meant that returns from its investment in the Burun field in Turkmenistan were not satisfactory. Poor returns have led to a cutback in spending at Burun leading to lower oil production. Oil is shipped by tanker to the Iranian border where it is swapped for oil exported from Iran's terminals in the Gulf. Production from Burun failed to reach targets set earlier in the year, falling from 18,000 barrels per day in September to just 12,000 bpd by the end of the year.

Monument increased its oil and gas reserves by a fifth to 162 million barrels following the successful test of the Zamzama-1 well in Pakistan.

Liverpool Bay accounted for three quarters of Monument's oil and gas production of 22,300 barrels per day. The company restructured its gas sales agreement with PowerGen in December, taking a £117 million upfront payment in exchange for a lower price for the sale of gas to the electricity company's Connah's Quay power station.

Monument said that it was not paying a dividend due to the difficult circumstances in the oil industry and the need to preserve capital.

TT poised to increase offer for Hall

By Paul Armstrong

TT GROUP, the electronic engineering company, all but committed itself yesterday to lifting its £52 million hostile takeover bid for Hall Engineering, the steel fabrication group.

John Newman, executive chairman, said that his company was still considering the increase, but added: "This will be our final offer."

TT's bid of 97p a share compares with Hall's closing price of 140p yesterday and has been rejected outright by Hall's directors. TT has until Friday to raise its offer. But John Sword, chief executive of Hall, has said that he may proceed with a management buyout, although he has not revealed the terms of any move.

The acquisition of Hall, which makes automotive pressings and reinforcement bars, would boost TT's efforts to increase the range of products that it supplies to the vehicle industry.

TT revealed yesterday that the tough times in the engineering sector had restricted its pre-tax profit to £65 million, a rise of just 3.8 per cent.

Mr Newman said that the strong pound, the Asian economic crisis and tighter margins took a toll on earnings.

However, he said that longer-term profit growth would by underpinned by increased demand for TT's electronics goods in the automotive sector and further acquisitions.

Mr Newman said that the value of car components was forecast to grow by 80 per cent between 1997 and 2005. Volumes would continue to rise as components used in luxury models, such as anti-skid brakes, were included in more standard vehicles. Laws concerning emissions, fuel economy and safety would also lead to higher demand for TT's components, he said.

TT declared a final dividend of 6.1p, making 9.79p for the year, up 11.8 per cent.

Tempus, page 30

Alexon issues downbeat statement

By Sarah Cunningham

ALEXON is expecting conditions to remain tough in the womenswear retailing business for at least the next six months.

John Osborn, chief executive, said that trade had turned down in the winter and had remained difficult in the first few weeks of the current year.

Like-for-like sales growth in the second half of 1998 was just 2.5 per cent.

Shares of the company fell nearly 10 per cent on the gloomy outlook to 196½p. Alexon is not paying any dividend because it wants to be able to make acquisitions, it said. Alexon and Electra Fleming bought Dolcis, the shoe retailer, from Sears 18 months ago.

Mr Osborn said: "The company is, I believe, in good shape to weather whatever difficulties may lie ahead and to capitalise on the opportunities presented."

Other brands in the company are Alexon, Eastex, Dash and the newer Ann Harvey and Kaliko. The latter two were the best performers, the company said, while Alexon and Eastex were the worst hit by the slowdown.

The future looks uncertain for the company's factories at Luton and Hawthorn, South Wales. Alexon said: "While both factories are meeting our quality requirements, we are facing strong price competition from offshore sources of supply and need to the keep the situation under continuous review."

Many British clothing manufacturers, including Coats Viyella, William Baird and Austin Reed, have announced factory closures in recent months.

In the year to January 30, Alexon, which has 783 outlets in Britain and Europe, made a pre-tax profit of £16.7 million, down from £17.2 million. The fall was attributed to losses of £5.6 million at Dolcis. Group turnover rose from £136 million to £145 million.

Vivendi to buy US water group

By Martin Barrow

VIVENDI, the French company that is the world's largest environmental services provider, said yesterday that it was buying United States Filter in a deal worth $6.2 billion (£3.8 billion).

The deal worth £31.50 a share in cash to USFilter's investors will create a clear world leader in water technology for a range of industrial, agricultural commercial and residential uses.

Once approved by regulators the agreed transaction will nearly double the revenues of the water treatment business of Vivendi, the company formerly known as Générale des Eaux. With USFilter, based in California, the annual sales of the combined businesses will be about $12 billion.

Jean-Marie Messier, chairman of Vivendi, said: "The world's population is continuing to grow. Industry is demanding ever-higher standards of processed water for manufacturing and the demand for quality waste water treatment to protect the environment has never been greater."

Richard J. Heckman, chairman and chief executive of USFilter, said: "This transaction makes strategic sense for us. Together we will have a capability for tapping the municipal privatisation market in the United States and elsewhere that we haven't had before."

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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Far Eastern	338.50	360.00	+ 1.00	
UK Special Sits	77.05	82.17	+ 0.54	0.24
Fd of Inv Tsts	63.04	67.23	− 0.16	
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Growth & Income #	56.78	60.55	+ 0.26	2.15
Global Opps	58.36	62.19†	− 0.32	0.71

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UK Growth	1650.10	1745.08	− 1.78	1.41
-do- Accum	1891.80	2000.60	− 1.90	1.41

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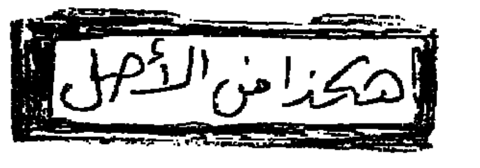
	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld
European Growth	165.84	176.42	..	0.20
Intl Bond	64.62	67.88	.	2.78
Intl Equity Growth	130.81	128.18	..	0.27
N Amer Growth	225.71	238.27†	..	0.23
Special Sits Growth	41.54	44.19†	.	1.10
UK Growth	679.32	722.66	..	1.47
-do- Accum	976.98	1039.31		1.47

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld
Balance Income #	410.80	437.02	− 1.60	4.56
Eqt Growth	149.8	158.44		0.50
Inc & Growth #	106.72	113.63	+ 0.43	2.86
Smaller Cos	127.94	136.11	+ 1.38	1.43

NW JOINT INVESTORS LTD

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld
Balanced Fd #	1591.80	1614.90†	...	2.80
Income #	1309.80	1329.50†	.	3.90



Equities suffer modest falls

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

[illegible]

BANKS

[illegible]

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

[illegible]

BUILDING MATERIALS

[illegible]

CHEMICALS

[illegible]

CONSTRUCTION

[illegible]

DISTRIBUTORS

[illegible]

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

[illegible]

ELECTRICITY

[illegible]

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

[illegible]

ENGINEERING

[illegible]

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

[illegible]

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

[illegible]

HEALTHCARE

[illegible]

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

[illegible]

INSURANCE

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

LEISURE & HOTELS

[illegible]

MEDIA

[illegible]

PHARMACEUTICALS

[illegible]

GILTS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

LONGS (over 15 years)

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED

[illegible]

MINING

[illegible]

OIL & GAS

[illegible]

OTHER FINANCIAL

[illegible]

PRINTING & PAPER

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PROPERTY

[illegible]

RETAILERS, FOOD

[illegible]

RETAILERS, GENERAL

[illegible]

SUPPORT SERVICES

[illegible]

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

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TRANSPORT

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WATER

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ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

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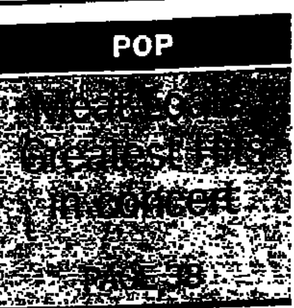
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FILM
Clint Eastwood has 12 hours to save a life
PAGE 37

THE TIMES
ARTS

POP





Cooking up a Caribbean storm

THEATRE: Kylie Minogue was just one of the novelties in a Bajan *The Tempest*. **Michael Owen** reports

A busy roundabout in Bridgetown, Barbados, is the site of a powerful statue commemorating freedom from slavery on the island. It depicts a black man with his hands raised aloft in triumph, the newly broken chains still dangling from the manacles on his wrists.

This potent image has been drafted on to the end of a colourful new production of *The Tempest* as Caliban, played by the black actor Ade Sapara, gives the same signal of victory that recalls his opening words to Prospero: "This island's mine ... that thou takest from me."

The fact that the show was playing just a couple of miles from the statue and that the audience was predominantly Bajan gave an added resonance to Shakespeare's most colonial of plays, and to the spirit of forgiveness and redemption that inhabits it. The production has been retitled *The Caribbean Tempest*, and what looked in prospect like a carnival romp through the masque and magic of the piece has turned into a creditable creation fuelled by its exotic location and cross-cultural participants.

The casting of Kylie Minogue as Miranda may have raised the odd knowing smile in anticipation, but she conducted herself more than adequately. She even declined to sing, even though a number was specially written into the show for her.

Peter O'Toole, an even more unpredictable stellar presence, was originally engaged to play Prospero, but a clash of film dates prevented the charismatic Irishman from making the trip, and David Calder was recruited for the role, fresh from his success in the same part with the Royal Shakespeare Company.

> ‘The salary for the actors comes mainly in the form of rum and sunshine’

The production was the main event in this year's Virgin Atlantic Holders Season. This festival has been running in Barbados for the past six years, since John and Wendy Kidd agreed to turn over their 18th-century plantation estate to the event each March. Pavarotti and Lesley Garrett have been among the visitors. Christopher Biggins has supervised previous Shakespearean offerings but this year, with the arrival of Virgin's new sponsorship, something more ambitious was sought.

The mastermind behind *The Caribbean Tempest* was Kit Hesketh-Harvey, of Kit and the Widow fame. He responded to a request from the Kidds to come up with a show that combined Bajan and international talent and settled on *The Tempest*. He filleted the text to use Shakespeare's lines as lyrics and brought in two local composers, Andre Daniel and Arturo Tappin, to provide a set of new songs as well as a background score.

The show starts with the genuine sound of voodoo drummers and includes calypso, rap and reggae rhythms. Ariel, arrayed like a brilliantly hued bird of paradise, is accompanied by a team of sprites whose skills incorporate stilt-walking, acrobatics and juggling, all fantastically caparisoned in huge feathered outfits. A children's chorus keeps threatening to steal the show and at the centre is a clutch of English actors including Roger Lloyd Pack, Alan Cox, Rupert Penry-Jones and Kevin Moore to provide the required ballast.

"It's not a terribly well-paid job for them as the salary comes mainly in the form of rum and sunshine," says Hesketh-Harvey. The performances are staged in the open air with a raised lawn as a stage and palm trees used to support the lighting rigs. The isle that is full of noises, sounds and sweet airs is effectively suggested by the background of crickets, frogs and birds. A couple of rum punches on the way into the 800-seater arena and the magic is beginning to have its effect even before Prospero starts to invoke his charms and spells.

But Hesketh-Harvey sees a more serious purpose afoot than providing some fanciful form of holiday culture. "There are so many reasons why the play should be revisited in a Caribbean location. Shakespeare was writing at a time when seafarers were returning from the West Indies with tales of shipwrecks and cannibals. Bajan English is nearer to Elizabethan English than the way we speak today. Because of the background of colonialism, *The Tempest* is the most studied play on the island and slavery is still a very raw memory. It speaks directly to people here and they know it line for line, as the audience reaction demonstrates.

"The fact that it was written as a masque to celebrate a wedding accounts for the liberal use of music, and we have taken advantage of that. I'm a little disappointed Kylie decided not to sing. We'd written *O Brave New World* as a solo for her. She does join in a duet with Ferdinand briefly, just to support the actor playing him who feels a bit vocally challenged. But she was serious about playing this one straight and has turned out to be a model company member. She even helps to carry the props."

The production also gave Hesketh-Harvey the chance to explore voodoo traditions on the island. "The population here is mostly Christian and they are quite devout about it. But there is no doubt there is a good number who still believe in voodoo. I find it fascinating as I was born in Malawi and the sight of the witchdoctors coming to bless our house was the most terrifying experience I can remember."

A more significant visit occurred when officials from the Edinburgh Festival flew in to catch the last performances. "They are looking at us as a potential show for the Assembly Rooms. I still feel that the magical garden setting is such a star in its own right, but if we could find a way to suggest some of that in an indoor venue, then we could be on."



Making a song and dance of Shakespeare on the island: Kylie Minogue (Miranda), Kevin Moore (Gonzalo) and Rupert Penry-Jones (Ferdinand)

BUILDING A LIBRARY

A guide to the best classical CDs in conjunction with BBC Radio 3

DVORAK'S CELLO CONCERTO
Reviewed by Geoffrey Smith

ONE of the wonders of Dvorák's Cello Concerto is its symphonic scale, the subtle ways the soloist is woven into the orchestral texture. Previously, the cello had been thought incapable of projecting effectively through a large ensemble — Dvorák himself complained of the nasal quality of its upper register and its "mumbling" bass. But his superb sense of orchestral colour and relationships lets the instrument show the full range of its expressive power, while delivering an abundance of good tunes.

The piece has been recorded by all the great names of the cello. Pablo Casals's 1937 version is still remarkable for its relentless intensity. Another legendary figure, Gregor Piatigorsky, is more Slavic and rhapsodic, and less concerned with technical precision. Any soloist must strike a balance between the concerto's lyricism and energy. The romantic themes should not sacrifice momentum to indulgence, as they do in Lynn Harrell's version. Similarly, Jacqueline du Pré, though giving a typically strong, ardent performance, overlooks Dvorák's request that the melody which begins the second movement not be played too slowly.

Throughout, the distinctive pleasure of the concerto is its mixture of emotions, alternating between tenderness and vivacity. Negotiating these changes is as much of a challenge as coping with the fiendish technical demands. Janos Starker plays with great fluency but perhaps not enough expression. Heinrich Schiff charts an attractive middle way, though he can become unduly aggressive in the robust passages.

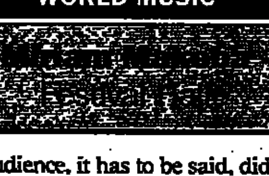
Two masters stand out from the rest. Pierre Fournier and **Mstislav Rostropovich** both combine power, insight and eloquence in splendid virtuoso displays, and both are superbly accompanied by the **Berlin Philharmonie**, under George Szell and **Herbert von Karajan** respectively. If sorely pressed, I would give the nod to Rostropovich (DG 447413-2, £10.49) for the heroic breadth of his conception and his recording's sumptuous sound.

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk
Next Saturday on Radio 3 (11am): Brahms's Piano Quintet

You've come a long way, lady

WORLD MUSIC





The name transcends music. Miriam Makeba's life has been so intricately entwined with her country's history that this rare London concert was bound to be touched with a special aura. Only Nina Simone could have arrived to a louder ovation. And just as that erratic lady sometimes gets by on charisma alone, so Makeba's vivacious personality made up for the longueurs in the music.

What we really came to hear, of course, were the adaptations of traditional tunes that the South African singer — now a stately 67 — made famous in her early years of exile. A handful duly arrived, but otherwise the format had moved on a long way since the Sixties.

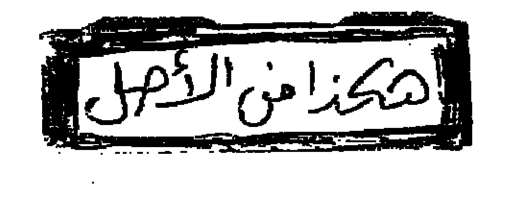
There was scarcely a "click" to be heard for the first 45 minutes. Instead of the folk subtleties of her early bands, she fronted an anonymous pan-African group who relied on brusque amplification, a ponderous drummer and a sprinkling of soft rock clichés.

Feel-good melodies such as *Homeland* and *A Promise* proved every bit as anodyne as their titles suggested. Makeba's four backing singers added some evocative harmonies, but the lumpen rhythm section left little room for her own vocals to shine through. The audience, it has to be said, did not seem to mind. A party is a party is a party.

Still, it was heartening to see the liveliest bout of dancing in the aisles prompted by the vintage *Nomeva* — performed after the interval in a brief jaunt down memory lane. That old faithful, *Wimowe*, cast its usual spell, while the ethereal *Sulirnam* underlined Makeba's power as a balladeer. Though she spoke in little more than a whisper, her voice was still in imposing shape. The long, swooping lines never wavered once, though she made a point of disappearing from the Festival Hall stage at intervals, presumably to recharge her batteries.

Towards the end her musicians filled the gap with gruesome showboating solos which went down a storm. The encores of traditional a cappella chants were all the more effective for being so simple. Why bother to try to be a sub-Saharan Celine Dion when you can be Miriam Makeba?

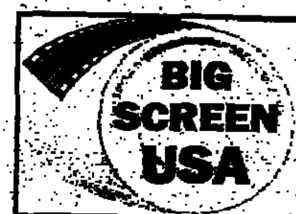
CLIVE DAVIS





CINEMA: Clint Eastwood has a double deadline to beat in *True Crime*, but somehow **Giles Whittell** can't get excited

Don't hold the front page



They like us! They really like us! They are the superheroes of filmland, the alpha males, and we are the scribblers who irritate them in the interview rooms of the global publicity machine. But when they come across us in a decent script — as hard-living rogues holding the line between freedom and injustice — they can't resist us.

Woodward and Bernstein weren't actually rogues. They were driven preppies on *The Washington Post*, but they brought down a dastardly President and that was good enough for Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman in *All The President's Men*. Michael Keaton, underappreciated in *The Paper*, was a controlled rogue and Hollywood's archetypal hot metal hero; he stood his pregnant wife up for a story, but the story was worth it and he made it to the birth.

In True Crime Clint Eastwood is an *un*controlled rogue. He takes the Keaton model and cranks up all the variables, drinking himself out of a big New York reporting job and wrecking his family with mindless womanising when he ends up at the cramped and parochial *Oakland Tribune*. He is also handed an extreme sort of journalistic challenge one fateful morning — a "human interest sidebar" about a black man on death row due to die in half a day despite his patently unsafe conviction.

Eastwood dislikes histrionics either in acting or directing. He does both here, and manages to create a surprisingly nuanced newspaperman despite the grim private life the script hands him, and the two killer deadlines. The result should be a killer film, but somehow it isn't. It has barely been going two minutes before Clint (as Steve Everett, looking every one of the actor's 69 years) is making the moves on a 23-year-old cub reporter in a beat-up bar. She wriggles away and is promptly killed in a car crash. After two more minutes Steve is in bed with his City editor's wife.

With another actor this slam-bang establishment of rogue credentials might be easily dismissed as cliché, but critics tend to cut Eastwood an unusual amount of slack because he remains one of the most watchable men in the business. He is also an ageing giant willing to mock his own mortality, while Redford and Pacino conspicuously refuse to.

Even so, his efforts to seem flawed are disingenuous. Early on his editor-in-chief calls his character "a real died-in-the-wool son of a bitch". This is not true. Janet Maslin in *The New York Times* called his performance his "most quietly poignant since *Perfect World*". Not really true either. The fact is, seldom has an old lecher made brazen adultery and the destruction of his family seem such innocent fun.

Eastwood has spent most of the 1990s masterfully adapting the uncompromising *Dirty Harry* heroism that made him a megastar to suit his advancing years. It began with the reformed gunman of *Unforgiven* who had an uncomfortable way of falling off his horse, and became explicit three years ago in *Absolute Power*, in which he directed himself as a cat burglar with a membership card for the American Association of Retired Persons.

But we should not be duped. Beneath the pleasant self-deprecation and the increasingly grandfatherly looks lurks the same white knight in shining armour. Anyone in doubt need only watch him in *True Crime*, tearing apart an entire death penalty conviction in an afternoon. We see him lining up the facts on quick visits to the crime scene and the chief prosecution witness. Then, in one of the film's best scenes, he goes to death row at San Quentin state prison to conduct a prearranged interview with the condemned man. On the way in a guard warns him that prisoners tend to lie, and Clint — sorry, Steve — shoots back: "Everyone lies, pal. I'm just here to write it down." The thrill the line imparts makes it clear this is just his new way of saying "Make my day".

Outside the prison, Eastwood has rendered his locations with a convincing mix of pathos and wry humour. The heavily black suburb of Richmond is one of the more godforsaken spots in Clintonian America and he knows it well, having grown up just down the road. Inside, there are heartrending scenes as inmate Frank Beachum's final hours tick away and he copes with the remorseless logistics of state-sanctioned killing: the farewells, the final meal, the arrival of the priest.

But there is also a strong sense that the most horrific ritual in American life is being exploited for a couple of hours' entertainment. This queasy-making tone is partly justified by current events — the almost casual acceptance of the death penalty that last year brought an innocent man to within 48 hours of being executed in Illinois, and has probably killed others who were as innocent but not so lucky.

In the end, as Kenneth Turan writes in the *Los Angeles Times*, this film is "caught between two stools, not involving enough emotionally to make up for its lack of overriding tension".

At the opposite end of the seriousness scale, the weekend's surprise box-office winner was a charming and unpredictable romance starring Ben Affleck and Sandra Bullock. Forces of Nature was rubbished in some quarters as high-concept casting in search of a plot, and embraced in others as the perfect thinking person's sex comedy. In fact there isn't much sex, but there is a far more inventive performance than we had a right to expect from Bullock, and quirky direction from Bronwen Hughes (*Harriet the Spy*) that suggests DreamWorks may at last be living up to its promise to mix art with its commerce. The deadline here is marriage: Affleck plays a young groom in search of himself on his way south from New York to get hitched. The ending is as unsatisfactory as *True Crime*'s, but on the journey there the amiable hunk from *Good Will Hunting* is as continuously worth watching as Eastwood. It will be interesting to see if he still is in 40 years.





America's favourite new movies: top, Clint Eastwood and Isaiah Washington on death row in *True Crime*; above, Sandra Bullock and Ben Affleck talk weddings in *Forces of Nature*

US WEEKEND BOX-OFFICE TAKINGS AND ANALYSIS

1	(-)	**Forces of Nature** (DreamWorks)	$13.9m/—
2	(1)	**Analyze This** (Warner Bros)	$11.9m/$39.9m
3	(-)	**True Crime** (Warner Bros)	$5.3m/—
4	(5)	**Baby Geniuses** (TriStar Pictures)	$4.5m/$5.6m
5	(3)	**Cruel Intentions** (Columbia)	$4.2m/$23.4m
6	(-)	**The King and I** (Warner Bros)	$4.1m/—
7	(2)	**The Rage: Carrie 2** (MGM)	$3.6m/$7.1m
8	(4)	**The Corruptor** (New Line)	$3.0m/$5.8m
9	(11)	**Shakespeare in Love** (Miramax)	$2.8m/$68.9m
10	(6)	**The Deep End of the Ocean** (Columbia)	$2.7m/$5.6m

● *First amount is estimated weekend takings, March 19-21. Second amount is total takings to March 15. Figure in brackets indicates last week's position*

● *Forces of Nature*, a screwball road comedy starring Sandra Bullock and Ben Affleck, came in at the No 1 slot in the American box office this week. Robert De Niro holds down the No 2 position with his Mafia comedy *Analyze This*. Clint Eastwood's thriller *True Crime* is third.

Sublime introspection

CONCERTS



As principal conductor of the Hallé Orchestra in Manchester, Kent Nagano has conducted far less Bruckner than Mahler — presumably because he feels he has a closer temperamental affinity with the latter composer. Most of us do. But Bruckner too was capable of indulging in introspection and even, in spite of his faith in God and the Symphony, of feeling very sorry for himself. The third movement of the unfinished Ninth Symphony in D minor is a clear case of a regretful farewell and, as Nagano and the Hallé confirmed in the Bridgewater Hall, a clear case also for illumination by Mahlerian hindsight.

If the upper strings were not always entirely together, in the technical sense, in defining the melodic line in that great slow movement, they were certainly together in their commitment to realising its emotional implications. A conductor can go too far, of course, in emphasising the sighs in the wide intervals of the main theme and the pain in its chromatic inflections but this was something that, with his usual stylistic discrimination, Nagano avoided. At the same time, even so, he left no doubt as to the bereft mood which inspired it. Indeed, he was at his best here, securing the immediate response while sustaining the continuity and working towards an ending that — although, with the fourth movement already sketched, Bruckner never intended it as an ending — attains an area of E major serenity sublimely remote from the D minor reality in which the work begins.

The first movement, too, gained something from an approach that, although not actually impatient, was more than just a matter of long-term restraint and a conviction that the building blocks will in due course fall into place. It was more spontaneous than that, melodically and texturally more indulgent. In the scherzo, though in this case with some loss of character, the anger of the outer sections was somehow reduced and the charm of the middle section much enhanced.

Since it was a Haydn performance that, among other things, secured Nagano's appointment to the Hallé nine or ten years ago, it was interesting to hear him, as he approaches the end of his term in Manchester, conduct Haydn again in the Symphony No 102 in B flat. It might not have been as fresh an interpretation as that original one, but the work was well chosen as a partner to the Bruckner and most stylishly done.

GERALD LARNER

A power to surprise

At 22, Huw Watkins is already a composer to be reckoned with. I first sat up and took notice of his music in January at the Park Lane Group's platform for young musicians when a striking new piece for violin and piano was premiered by Daniel Bell. Now, thanks to Faber Music's *Millennium Series* commissions, and a nomination by Thomas Adès, a *Sonata for Cello and Eight Instruments* has been born. Composed for his brother Paul, cellist of the Nash Ensemble, it was played by these musicians under Martyn Brabbins in the second of their three *Song Offerings* programmes.

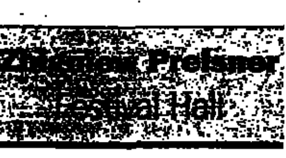
The conventional form of the piece belies its power to surprise. In the first movement, baroque in its flamboyance, artifice and compressed energy, ideas which are instinctively heard and written for each solo instrument bounce off each other and come to rest in moments of strange beauty. In the second, the musical nostalgia of oblique horncalls in the woodwind gives the cue for a lyrical distillation of their motifs in the cello's song. Only the third movement, a brittle bagatelle of a finale, seems tacked on.

Watkins's teacher was Julian Anderson, so one must be careful to give credit where it is due. But I have to admit to a certain impatience with his 12-movement *Towards Poetry*, a newly extended version of *Poetry nearing Silence*, written for the Nash Ensemble in 1997. Inspired by the art of Tom Philips, the original work has been expanded to fit a scenario devised by the choreographer Mark Baldwin, who commissioned the piece for the Royal Ballet's *Dance Bites* tour. Testing virtuoso solo writing and cunning conceit never quite make up for the ultimate lack of substance in this frenetic passing show.

But at the beginning and end of the evening there was much consolation. After the Watkins came a small wonder from Mark-Anthony Turnage: a wake for the Nash's late cellist Christopher van Kampen, called *Cortège for Chris* and cast as a duet for clarinet (Richard Hosford) and cello (Paul Watkins), lulled by piano (Shelagh Sutherland). And, as the grand finale, Jonathan Harvey's exuberant celebration of love, laughter and the human voice (soprano Valdine Anderson) in his own *Song Offerings*.

HILARY FINCH

Seduced by reel music



Here is the sound of a programme annotator getting horribly carried away: "Chord sequences as monolithic as a slab of dark chocolate; timbres as natural and unnatural as a hillside garden." Zbigniew Preisner can do that to a man's prose. You usually encounter his music on film soundtracks, peppering the cryptic allegories of his fellow Pole, Krzysztof Kieslowski. But the Festival Hall was jam-packed on Friday for Preisner's first large-scale piece for live performance, *Requiem For My Friend*.

The friend was Kieslowski, who died in 1996. They had planned a music-drama spectacle about the meaning of life to be performed at the Acropolis: Kieslowski would be the director. Preisner's music became instead his friend's memorial: over an hour of mournful fragments, divided into two parts, *Requiem* and *Life*, glued together with notes on organ pedal or strings, the melodic lines decorated with more minor thirds than is medically advisable for the ear to hear.

The *Requiem* has already made friends through a CD recorded in Warsaw Cathedral and the Emaus Church in Cracow. The Festival Hall acoustic recalls no cathedral, so reverberation was simulated through microphones. However, authenticity was better achieved by importing the original Polish singers, musicians, and conductor Jacek Kaspszyk.

Star attraction of the sombre first part was the soprano Elzbieta Towarnicka. Her voice dominated the most affecting segments, when Preisner's phrasings lodged themselves firmly in the mind. But the attractions dwindled in the second section, scored mostly for a 60-piece orchestra (the BBC Concert Orchestra) and a 40-piece choir (the Salisbury Festival Chorus).

The concert's second half consisted of expanded arrangements of music composed for Kieslowski's films, plus the waltzing title music for the BBC series *People's Century*. A scrappy sequence, this, but the audience clapped like mad.

GEOFF BROWN

A C.P. Taylor revival

Kings of techno upstaged

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

GOOD: C.P. Taylor's best play, tracing a liberal professor's gradual descent into working with the Nazis. Charles Dance heads a strong cast. Michael Grandage directs.
Donmar Warehouse (0171-369 1732). Opens tonight, 7pm. ◩

ENEMIES: Isaac Bashevis Singer's story of a Holocaust survivor in New York, who is troubled by women past and present. First written as a play, then a novel, now a play again. John Wright directs.
Young Vic Studio (0171-928 6363). Opens tonight, 7.45pm. ◩

LOTARIO: The 22nd London Handel Festival gathers speed with a staging (tonight, 7pm) by the London Royal Schools Opera and the Handel Society of the Baroque composer's dramatic opera. Denys Darlow and Paul Nicholson take turns with the baton. Robert Chevara directs.
Britten Theatre, Royal College of Music. Tickets from: London Handel Festival (0181-3360990).

MOZART AND SALIERI: Nicholas Kraemer conducts the City of London Sinfonia and the Joyful Company of Singers in a semi-staged production of Rimsky-Korsakov's one-acter based on Pushkin's story. The concert's second half features Mozart's Requiem.
Barbican (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm ◩

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: Welsh National Opera's spring visit opens with Peter Stein's finely-sung production of Britten's *Peter Grimes* tonight, with a second showing on Friday. With performances of *La bohème* tomorrow and Sat, and *Hansel and Gretel*, Thur.



Richard Alston and his company visit Norwich

Hippodrome (0121-622 7486). Tonight-Sat, 7.15pm ◩

NORWICH: Richard Alston's extensive tour reaches its penultimate destination with three of the choreographer's finest creations, the latter two danced to Stravinsky and Brahms.
Theatre Royal (01603 630000). Tonight, 7.30pm; tomorrow, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. ◩

SHEFFIELD: Phil Wilmott directs *Angels in America* (part one), Tony Kushner's celebrated vision of a confused and anguished America, comprising guilt, treachery, dreams, laughter, even an angel.
Crucible Studio (0114 2769922). ◩. Opens tonight, 7.15pm.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only ◩ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

□ **TROILUS AND CRESSIDA:** Trevor Nunn and John Caird direct black Trojans and white Greeks, with Peter de Jersey and Sophie Okonedo as the doomed lovers.
Olivier (0171-452 3000). ◩

□ **GROSS INDECENCY:** The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde: Michael Pennington plays Wilde, with William Hoyland and Clive Francis as counsel for and against, in Moises Kaufman's play.
Gielgud (0171-494 5065).

□ **A LOVELY SUNDAY FOR CREVE COEUR:** Late Tennessee Williams play where four thirtysomething women do and don't want to go for a lakeside picnic. Jenny Sealey directs for Graeae Theatre.
Drill Hall (0171-637 8270).

□ **LOW FLYING AIRCRAFT:** Set in a future transformed by the vast city of Heathrow four ordinary people try to cope. Dominic Hill directs new Jane Coles play.
Orange Tree (0181-940 3633). ◩

□ **SNAKE:** Interesting-sounding play by Rona Munro, snaking round the experiences of five people whose lives interconnect along the Finchley Road. Gemma Bodinetz directs.
Hampstead (0171-722 9301). ◩

□ ***ANIMAL CRACKERS:*** Ben Keaton, Joe Alessi and Toby Sedgwick play the three maniacs in a stage version of the Marx Brothers movie. For addicts only.
Lyric (0171-494 5045).

□ **SLAVA'S SNOWSHOW:** The excellent Russian clown and mime artist Slava Polunin returns, with new material, new clowns as well as his unforgettable finale.
Piccadilly Theatre (0171-369 1734).

◩ **MACBETH:** Rufus Sewell and Sally Dexter play the superstitious thane and his missis in John Crowley's production.
Queens, W1 (0171-494 5041).

□ **DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN:** Mark Little makes his West End debut in Rob Becker's new comedy, tracing the origins of the man/woman difference back to the caves.
Apollo (0171-494 5070).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

ARLINGTON ROAD (15): Nerve-shredding thriller with a magnificent performance by Jeff Bridges as a paranoid professor who thinks his neighbour, Tim Robbins, is hatching a terrorist conspiracy. Mark Pellington directs.

WAKING NED (PG): It's *Lottery Galore!* for a small village in this slushy Irish fable about a corpse in charge of a winning lottery ticket. With Ian Bannen and David Kelly. Kirk Jones directs.

SEUL CONTRE TOUS (I STAND ALONE) (18): Brutal, stomach-churning voyage through a French butcher's life. Philippe Nahon puts in a monumental performance in Gaspar Noe's ghastly, nihilistic experiment.

A NIGHT AT THE ROXBURY (15): Will Ferrell and Chris Kattan, aka the Butabi brothers, are routinely kneed in the groin by girls with big cleavages. Awful nightclub comedy from John Fortenberry.

SOUTHPAW (15): Gripping documentary about Ireland's first traveller boxing champ, Francis Barrett, who graduated from a caravan site to the Atlanta Olympics. Liam McGrath directs.

CURRENT

PATCH ADAMS (12): Robin Williams stars in this absurd medical movie about a doctor who wants to cure the world with laughter. Director Tom Shadyac extracts an obscene amount of sentiment with little anaesthetic.

PLEASANTVILLE (12): Ingenious spoof of American family values. Two dysfunctional 1990s teenagers get sucked into a squeaky-clean 1950s TV soap. Great performances from Tobey Maguire, Jeff Daniels and Reese Witherspoon.

BELOVED (15): Oprah Winfrey is surprisingly powerful as a runaway slave haunted by poltergeists, lynch mobs, and a dead daughter. Jonathan Demme's overlong film fails, however, to get inside the festering heart of Toni Morrison's Pulitzer Prize winner.

THE THIN RED LINE (15): A glittering cast of American soldiers lose their sanity in the South Pacific during the Second World War. Terrence Malick's artistic masterpiece stars Sean Penn, Jim Caviezel, Ben Chaplin, Nick Nolte.

YOU'VE GOT MAIL (PG): Bullet-proof romantic blockbuster with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan who fall in love on the Internet. Written and directed by Nora Ephron.

Old ham can still cut the mustard

POP



You pays your money and you takes your chance. Unless you're Meat Loaf who, because you've paid your money, takes no chances. Alas, this lavishly mounted greatest hits show (in the Simmonscourt hall at the Royal Dublin Society) had an air of safe predictability about it at odds with the rumbustious, hell-raising spirit invoked in the songs.

With album sales now in excess of 50 million over the past 20 years and the proprietors of Tinseltown seeking him out with ever greater frequency, Meat is by now a rebel without just cause. Moreover, for a man whose oeuvre celebrates the potency and vibrancy of youth, it's a little bemusing to have him introduce the sprightly blonde singer and tambourine-shaker to our left as his daughter, Pearl Aday. It also jarred that the fiftysomething superstar should open with a song made famous by a boy band: the soporific *No Matter What*, previously a No 1 for Boyzone. The embroidered curtain is then lifted and the musicians, now visible, launch into *Dead Ringer For Love*, with backing singer Patti Russo giving a suitably deep-throated approximation of Cher.

The songwriting svengali behind Meat Loaf's most successful work, Jim Steinman, believes that there's nothing worth doing that is not worth overdoing — and repeating — and so we're treated to a steady stream of mock-operatic rockers (such as *Rock and Roll Dreams Come Through*) and ballads (*Is Nothing Sacred?*) in which every emotion is writ large and every guitar solo seems to grow longer and louder.

There is even a staged bust-up midsong between Meat and his leading lady (Russo) and a protracted, cringe-inducing exchange follows on the subject of Meat's virility. Later on the show will plumb the depths of kitsch as Russo appears centre-stage in a flamboyant white wedding dress, before disappearing behind the glittering backdrop with her tuxedo-clad "spouse" only for Meat, for it is he, to reappear lasciviously clutching the dress. Oh dear.

For the encore, Meat gathers his band around him and moves down a gear or two by going all acoustic on us. This unplugged set (the only time Meat strays from his late 1970s blood and thunder blueprint) is designed to give a looser feel to proceedings — he even invites requests from the audience, which results in an allegedly snap version of the Stones' *Honky Tonk Woman*. The bolshy bombast is also toned down for *Midnight at the Lost and Found*, *Two Out of Three Ain't Bad* and *You Took the Words Right Out of My Mouth*, which eventually sees the band revert back to full-on electric mode.

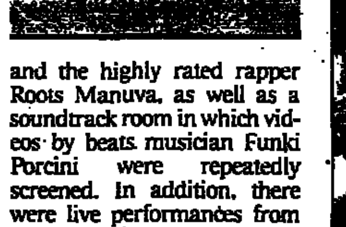
The preposterously overblown theatrics of *Bat out of Hell* are inevitably saved for the grand finale, and it's hard to remain unimpressed by the sheer extravagance of it all as a giant, wing-flapping bat with flashing red eyes drops from the ceiling to loom menacingly above the band. It's as if the musicians are goaded on by this absurd prop and, just for a moment, all the preening pomp and circumstance suddenly make sense.

NICK KELLY



Safe he may be these days, but a Meat Loaf show remains a rock'n'role-playing spectacular

Dull, slice them how you will



In the late 1980s, the South London DJ duo Coldcut helped to redefine dance music. The pair pioneered new production techniques such as sampling, which is now omnipresent in pop. Although Coldcut's musical influence has waned considerably over recent years, numerous multimedia projects have kept band members Matt Black and Jonathan More at the forefront of the techno revolution. Only last week, *Tomorrow's World* viewers saw the studio boffins orchestrate a live Internet jam involving the likes of Sinéad O'Connor and Aswad singer Brinsley Forde.

Cheekily titled *No Skool*, their sold-out Forum show — to be followed next month by a UK tour — featured various artists all signed to Coldcut's own label, Ninja Tunes. Stretched over seven hours, the entertainment included sets from five different DJs and the highly rated rapper Roots Manuva, as well as a soundtrack room in which videos by beats musician Funki Porcini were repeatedly screened. In addition, there were live performances from London hip hop crew the Herbaliser and Coldcut themselves.

Oddly, the highlight of the evening came early on. Previewing material from a third album, *Very Mercenary*, which is due out in April, the Herbaliser were the only act to incite the audience to dance, rather than simply shuffle its feet. Against a backdrop of mutating graphics, a ten-strong line-up blended brass, bass, percussion and drums with keyboards and laid-back beats. The result was an irresistibly funky fusion of jazz, techno and hip hop, which sometimes strayed into classy soundtrack territory.



Coldcut's Matt Black: created wrong ambience

Groove-driven instrumentals were mixed with infectious rap tracks, including one performed with Manuva, who appears on *Very Mercenary* alongside artists such as Bahamadia, Latyryx and the Dream Warriors.

Coldcut's set seemed staid by comparison. Admittedly, after the Herbaliser's energetic antics, the sight of two men standing behind record decks was bound to be dull, however impressive their turntable skills. Black and More began well, wisely choosing to play some of their most uptempo tracks. They even showed a sense of humour by sampling *King of the Swingers* from *The Jungle Book*, an old acid house party piece. It was when they slipped into ambient mode for 20 minutes that they largely lost the audience's interest. After that, even bringing on Forde for a Bob Marley cover could not mask the fact that Coldcut had been upstaged by their support act.

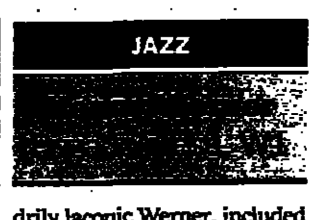
LISA VERRICO

Three become one

Although the phrase comes from a "save the manatee" T-shirt he just happened to be wearing at the recording session, the pianist Kenny Werner made a wise choice when he decided to call his latest album *A Delicate Balance*. As he points out, the "old and the new, swinging and free, political fashion and spirit" all have to be balanced if the music is to communicate, and the success of piano-trio jazz in particular depends crucially on the subtlety and grace of its participants' interaction. To this end, Werner has always selected his rhythm sections with great care and during this brief London residency he is playing with two of the most responsive musicians in jazz: bassist Drew Gress and drummer Billy Hart.

The elements balanced in the trio's opener, *With a Song in My Heart*, according to the drily laconic Werner, included echoes of Kathryn Grayson and Mario Lanza, plus a dash of Jobim. With the earnestness of its theme cleverly tempered by its arrangement, these seemingly incongruous musical moods were assimilated without undue contrivance.

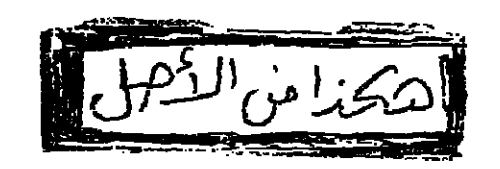
JAZZ



In the all-original programme that followed, too, balance was all-important. A Thelonious Monk tribute, *Amonkst*, one of a number of compositions to which Werner himself refers as "surrealistic stompers", was — like the music it celebrated — a spikily eccentric theme full of sudden unexpected twists and turns, that drew performances of great vigour and considerable aplomb from Gress and Hart. *Trio Imitation*, a typically tricky Werner piece packed with rhythmic tension, ended with an extended groove, thus neatly balancing structure and freedom; *Lorraine*, besides bringing overall balance to the set by providing its only outright ballad, was itself counterbalanced by its segue into *Melodies of 1997*, a composition Werner describes as "a harmonic journey with no melody at all" that contrasted perfectly with the eminently singable theme that preceded it.

With a second set similarly centring both audience and trio in the familiar — Nat Adderley's *Work Song*, albeit in somewhat customised form — before exploring more of Werner's own highly original material, this was supremely accomplished trio jazz that succeeded in balancing two apparently incompatible elements: complexity and accessibility.

CHRIS PARKER



LAW

The barrister who had an instinct for fairness

Peter Duffy, QC, stood out for his essential decency in a profession with more than its fair share of cynical, unreasonable and selfish characters. His death earlier this month, at the appallingly premature age of 44 after a battle against cancer, has deprived the legal system of one of the most effective advocates for human rights. He leaves a wife and three young children.

Peter's advocacy had many admirable qualities. It was authoritative, being based on a complete command of international legal materials. It was balanced, avoiding hyperbole and responding to the strengths of competing arguments. It was sensitive to the concerns of his clients.

He was a formidable opponent, a valuable ally in court or in a conference, and a barrister on whose submissions judges knew they could rely, whether he was representing applicants or government departments.

In the past few years he appeared in many leading human rights disputes. He acted for homosexual servicemen and women fighting their exclusion from the Armed Forces. He represented Diane Blood in the case about using the sperm of her dead husband. He spoke for sadomasochists, transsexuals and Gypsies in their respective disputes in the European Court of Human Rights; he was briefed for Amnesty in the Pinochet extradition case; and (three weeks before his death) he intervened in the House of Lords on behalf of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in relation to the scope of the Geneva Convention on Refugees. Opposing counsel, as well as judges, were educated by his submissions.

Nobody who was there will forget the force of his successful argument in the European Commission of Human Rights criticising the law that made it a criminal offence for 16 and 17-year-old homosexual males to have a sexual relationship with a consenting partner. It was as a result of the commission's decision, accepting Peter's submissions, that the Government announced proposals (now before Parliament) to liberalise the law.

He will be particularly missed on May 18, when the European Court hears argument on whether the ban on homosexuals in the Armed Forces is a breach of the right to private life guaranteed by Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

David Pannick QC

What characterised his career and made him a model for all advocates was an instinct for fairness, or more accurately a distaste for unfairness. As he explained in his 1997 Stonewall Lecture, it is incumbent on all of us to treat other people "with respect in accordance with the true understanding of the principles of equality". He gave freely of his time and skills to those who could not afford to pay fees — as well as earning large sums from wealthy clients who wanted to benefit from his expertise. He had, incidentally, an encyclopaedic knowledge of the hotels and restaurants in Strasbourg.

The loss to the legal system is especially significant as international human rights instruments — his area of expertise — become of central importance to the interpretation and application of domestic law.

The Human Rights Act 1998 will be brought into force soon, probably next year. It will incorporate the European Convention into our law, so making relevant the decisions of the European Court and the judgments of constitutional courts of other jurisdictions. Barristers and judges will need all the guidance they can find on what are, to most of them, novel principles that are going to permeate all branches of our legal system, from criminal procedure to planning policy.

He not only understood, but believed in, the core values of the European Convention that occupied so much of his professional life. As the European Court has explained, a democratic society cannot exist without pluralism and tolerance, the rule of law, access to the courts and freedom of political debate. The convention is designed to guarantee rights that are not theoretical, but practical and effective.

A fair balance must be struck between the rights of the individual and the demands of the general interests of the community.

The principle of proportionality requires a reasonable relationship to be maintained between the means employed by the State and the legitimate objectives that it is pursuing.

In arguing for, and living by, these values, Peter was a credit to the Bar. A busy and ambitious profession sometimes forgets that there are greater tragedies than having your submissions rejected by the judge, or being told that a solicitor will not agree as high a brief fee as you had hoped to receive. It is a mark of the considerable respect and affection for Peter Duffy, QC, and the widespread recognition of what the legal system still had to learn from him, that his death occasioned so strong a sense of loss by so many.

● *The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford*

PICTURES: REUTERS/MERCURY PRESS AGENCY/SKY TV





Why children under 14 should not be tried as adults

The Strasbourg ruling on the Bulger case highlights the need to reform juvenile sentencing, says **Allan Levy**

How should society deal with children who kill? Last week's ruling by the European Commission of Human Rights in the case of Robert Thompson and Jon Venables — now going to the European Court of Human Rights — is likely to lead eventually to a radical reconsideration by the Government of the way we sentence children in the criminal courts.

And it is almost certain that the Home Secretary will be forced to abandon his role in the sentencing process.

The hanging of children who kill was abolished by the Children Act of 1908, which brought in the sentence of detention during Her Majesty's pleasure.

Since then, we seem to have lost our way. The chief issues raised at Strasbourg concern the procedure adopted at the trial of the two boys, which was held in an adult court — Preston Crown Court — in November 1993; the nature of the sentences imposed, the role played by the Home Secretary in fixing the "tariff" part of the sentences (for punishment and deterrence) and the availability of review procedures concerning the continuation of their detention.

The majority view of the European Commission of Human Rights, which carried out a sifting process in respect of the boys' applications, was that the trial was unfair — and therefore in breach of Article 6 of the Convention — because the boys, then aged 11, were subjected to a "severely intimidating procedure" by the public trial with attendant publicity. Their ability to participate was seriously affected.

The commission also criticised the sentencing procedure. It found that, after conviction, the fixing of the tariff was a sentencing exercise and that the Home Secretary, as a politician, could not be regarded as an "independent and impartial tribunal" to comply with Article 6.

Lastly, a breach of Article 5 was found in that in the five years since the indeterminate sentences were passed, no review of the lawfulness of the detention by a judicial body was available.

> Treating children as adults is a disturbing trend

The one British judge, Mr Justice Bratza (sitting with 14 other commission judges), voted with the majority in favour of the boys on each of the issues. He accepted that within the constraints of the criminal trial in public, all possible steps were taken by the trial judge in Preston to make allowances for the fact that the two defendants were only 11.

But Mr Justice Bratza's view was that a fair trial within the meaning of Article 6 was inconsistent with subjecting a child to "the full rigours of an adult, public trial".

This trend within the past few years for children to be treated as adults in some parts of the criminal justice system is disturbing. The Howard League for Penal Reform, in its report *Protecting the Rights of Children*, published last week, notes that the thrust of many recent legislative changes regarding children negates their immaturity and considers them as if they were adults.

The removal, for example, of the protection given by the doctrine of *doli incapax* for children aged between 10 and 14 (the prosecution formerly had to prove not only the offence alleged but also that a child *understood* that what he or she had done was seriously wrong) puts the child from the age of 10 in the same position as an adult in respect of criminal intent and understanding.

Although Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, has said that there will be no changes in the present system and that the Government will argue matters fully in the forthcoming European Court of Human Rights hearing, it is time to consider reforms that are long overdue.

The 1996 Justice Report *Children and Homicide* recommended that those under the age of 14 accused of homicide (an offence to cover both murder and manslaughter) or other serious offences should be tried in private to protect their identities and that only the facts of the case and, where there was a conviction, the sentences, should be made public.

The cases should be heard by a specially convened panel of a judge and two magistrates who have relevant experience and training. The court should have a wide sentencing discretion. A more fundamental reform would be to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 years to bring it into line with that of most other European countries.

● *The author is a QC and specialist in child and human rights law. E-mail:* lawpage@the-times.co.uk

Legal DIARY

AS the Government's Access to Justice Bill enters the Commons today, MPs are mounting a campaign led by the solicitor Andrew Dismore, MP, to scrap the institution of Queen's Counsel. They want to amend the Bill to abolish what they see as an anachronistic distinction which serves to give lawyers more money. The campaign by Mr Dismore has infuriated QCs, many of whom he instructed when in practice. Andrew Goodman, secretary of the Professional Negligence Bar Association, says that he must have "stifled his concerns" when, as a solicitor, he sought the best QCs to present his clients' cases.

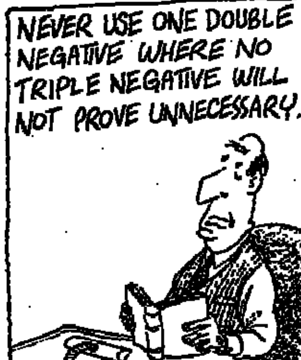
□ MEANWHILE, Geoff Hoon, the Minister of State at the Lord Chancellor's Department, has released figures which support the long-held belief that many QCs earn too much in private practice to consider becoming judges. Of the 31 QCs asked by the Lord Chancellor's Department if they would accept an appointment to the High Court Bench over the past four years, 20 rejected the approach, although eight changed their minds. The figures, in response to a question from Mr Dismore, also show the practice of making informal approaches to be in decline since the decision in 1997 by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, to advertise all High Court vacancies. While 14 silks were approached in 1996, just two were sounded out last year.

□ THE Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, may take some comfort from the law lords' ruling tomorrow on the General Pinochet extradition case. The seven law lords are expected to uphold his reasoning on what crimes are extraditable in law, and to exclude those crimes before 1988. Even though they will rule he must be extradited on remaining crimes, the case to send him for trial to Spain is much weakened.

□ Clyde & Co, who specialise in shipping and aviation, is in danger of losing one of its senior partners in a most unusual way. Dr Peter Felter, the head of the firm's energy group, is spearheading a bid to oust the management at the oil company Premier. In a letter to its shareholders he claims it is underperforming and calls on them to replace the existing management with him and his team. "I have assembled a management team with outstanding credentials for operating in the international energy area," says Dr Felter, who wants to be chief executive.

● *Last chance to submit entries to the Times/Justice Awards, page 41.*

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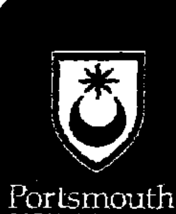
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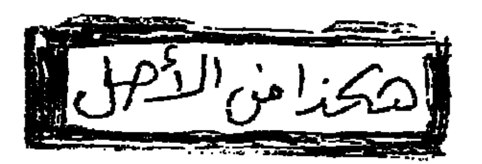
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The risk that faces frontline lawyers

The danger for those working on human rights is becoming linked to a cause, says **Frances Gibb**

There was widespread condemnation last week of the murder of Rosemary Nelson as a direct result of her professional work as a defence lawyer for republicans in Northern Ireland.

Mrs Nelson had regularly received death threats and reported them to the authorities; such threats are commonplace for lawyers who work at the front line of sensitive human rights and political cases. It is work that requires a particular brand of courage: in a report last year, the United Nations said only some 20 of Ulster's 1,400 solicitors would routinely defend clients in "politically sensitive" cases.

Last week they were undeterred. Peter Madden, a Belfast human rights lawyer now representing families in the Bloody Sunday inquiry, says Mrs Nelson's death was an outrage. "It's also very sad when you think that she was the only woman in Lurgan to open her own practice, and then to balance her work with home and young children." He, and groups such as the British-Irish Rights Watch, argue that it is hard for lawyers in such circumstances to obtain protection. Mrs Nelson had received alleged death threats from the RUC; then she was killed by loyalists. In such cases lawyers have no confidence in seeking protection from the RUC.

A similar fate befell Mr Madden's professional partner, Patrick Finucane, murdered ten years ago in front of his family. Such acts aim to prevent people who have suffered human rights abuses from getting the legal help they need, Mr Madden says.

There is heightened anxiety, but lawyers will carry on. Such work means extra precautions and vigilance. The legal profession is not routinely associated with danger. Criminal lawyers handling cases of big-league organised crime are not unused to threats: even divorce lawyers sometimes receive aggressive and abusive letters from the spouse of their client. But few expect to put their lives on the line for their work.

Alan Burnside, the spokesman for the Law Society in Northern Ireland, which represents some 480 law firms, says the dangers must not be exaggerated. "Solicitors are not crouching behind their desks here. It is a very small number of firms doing this kind of work. The murder of Mrs Nelson was not an attack on the legal profession so much as an attempt to destabilise the peace process."

Worldwide though, risks for lawyers are rising. A report in 1997 covering 49 countries carried out by the International Commission of Jurists said that the year before in those countries, 26 lawyers were killed, 97 suffered prosecution, arrest, detention or torture, two disappeared, 32 were physically attacked and 324 professionally obstructed. The International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute, which this year has intervened with national leaders on behalf of mistreated lawyers in 27 countries, reports that attacks on judges and lawyers have doubled in the past three years.

It has had some success: the case against the Kenyan lawyer Juma Kiplenge was withdrawn recently, and three people have been detained on charges of murdering the Colombian lawyer Eduardo Umana Mendoza. But its work goes on. It has just protested to Mohtar Abdullah, Attorney-General of Malaysia, over the jail sentence faced by the lawyer Zainur Zakaria, representing Anwar Ibrahim. This week a letter went to President Demirel of Turkey over the treatment of lawyers acting for Abdullah Ocalan.

Peter Goldsmith, QC, the institute's co-chairman, says dangers arise when people identify a lawyer with his client's cause. "Lawyers in many parts of the world are in the front line in upholding civil liberties. Sometimes government agencies themselves are involved. We tend to take it for granted that you can carry on your practice without interference, being bugged, having files stolen, being locked up for contempt of court, not subject to death threats. But these are real pressures which some lawyers work under."

CRISPIN RODWELL



Rosemary Nelson: killed in a bomb attack

Freedom's flame flickers

Corpus Juris threatens our liberty, argues **Michael Shrimpton**

After the resignations at the European Commission last week, there will be a fresh drive to combat fraud within the European Union's administrative machine and beyond. These Commission proposals, known as Corpus Juris, aim to rationalise procedures for prosecuting fraud within the EU. But the document, now likely to be seized on as one answer to the Commission's problems, is more than this. It is a blueprint for rationalising Europe's criminal laws.

What lies behind it? In line with the Treaty of Rome, the EU has edged towards becoming a federal state. Community law was established as federal (in the sense that the laws of the states can be overruled) by the European Court of Justice in a series of rulings starting in the early Sixties and accelerated in the late Eighties and early Nineties.

This drive to convert a federal system into a federal state has a legal obstacle. The EU has two fundamentally incompatible legal systems, the inquisitorial and the adversarial. No state has ever succeeded with such a dichotomy of legal procedure. The UK has two systems, but the Scottish legal system could scarcely be described as inquisitorial and provides for trial by jury. With only two adversarial states (the UK and Ireland) it was not hard to see which would lose out when the choice came to be made for a European legal system. While economic and monetary union drives the process of economic and political integration, the Community treaties do not provide a similar mechanism for "harmonisation" of legal systems. Community law is not organic but superimposed, with varying degrees of success. In the UK it is not even entrenched, since the European Communities Act 1972 can be repealed.

The problem has been recognised by both the European Parliament and the EC. In 1995 a directorate of the EC set up the European Legal Area Project, the same directorate that was implicated in the Euro-sleaze scandal. The project led to a seminar at San Sebastian in Spain on April 17 and 18, 1997, from which emerged Corpus Juris. What would it do? First, it is true that it would "harmonise" criminal prosecutions for fraud against Community funds. But as the documentation makes clear, Corpus Juris has been conceived as "the embryo of a future European Criminal Code". José Maria Gil-Robles, the President of the European Parliament, has talked of the creation of "a common European judicial space". Article 18 of Corpus Juris provides that "the territory of the member states of the Union constitutes a single legal area".

> Trial by jury would be shut out entirely, as would habeas corpus

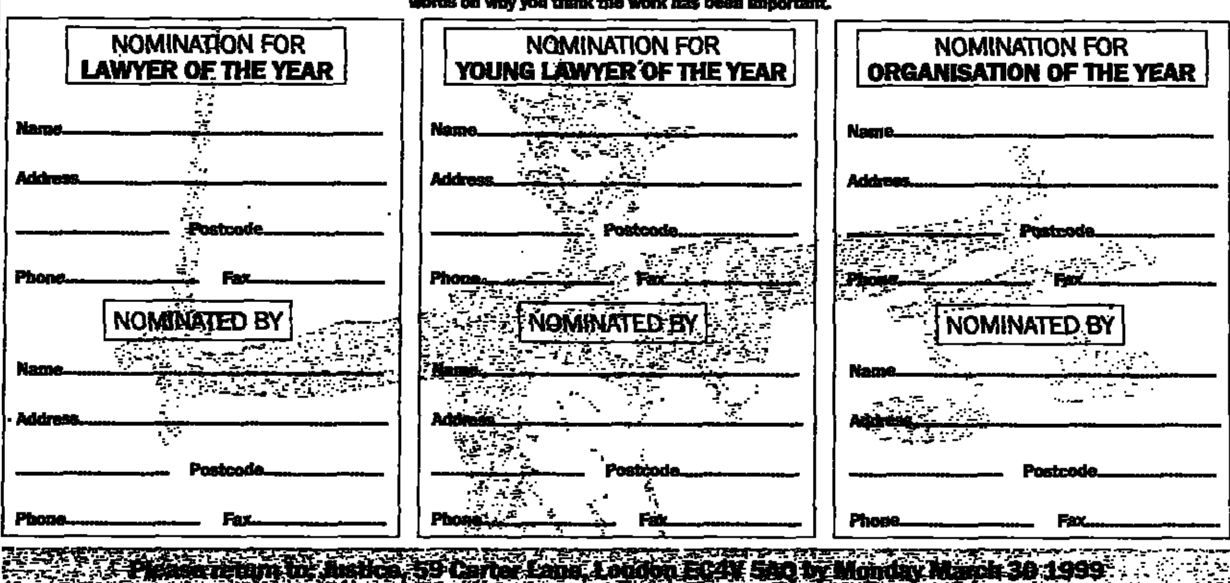
It is proposed to appoint a European Director of Public Prosecution, and European delegated public prosecutors in each state, who may exercise their powers beyond state borders. The Euro DPP may "request" detention without trial for up to six months, renewable for three months at a time, with no maximum limit. Detention across borders is permitted and European arrest warrants would be valid across the entire EU. Whether the authors of Corpus Juris understood the immense constitutional implications for the UK of their proposals is doubtful, but perhaps the Europeans have never understood our attachment to liberty and the rule of law.

Article 26 Indent 1 is perhaps the most controversial, excluding "simple jurors or lay magistrates". Trial by jury would be shut out entirely, as would habeas corpus. As for fraud, Corpus Juris could be brought in by majority voting under Article 209a (280) of the Treaty of Rome as amended by Amsterdam. Britain believes that it has a veto but that view is not shared. If the lamp which shows that freedom lives is not yet extinguished, it is flickering.

● *The author is a barrister and specialist in constitutional and administrative law.*

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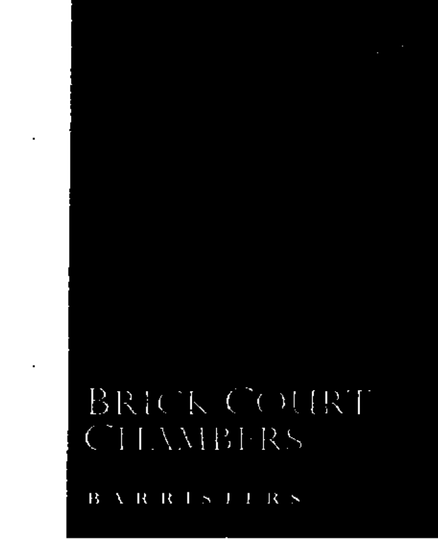
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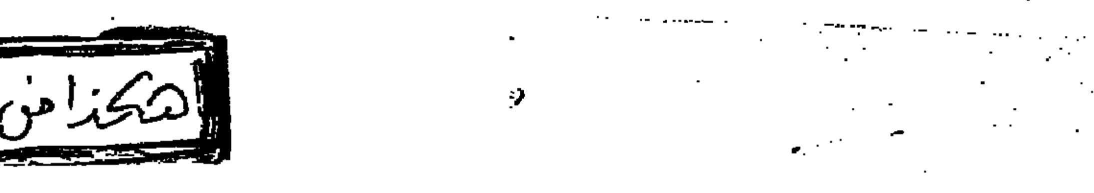
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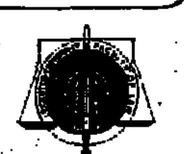
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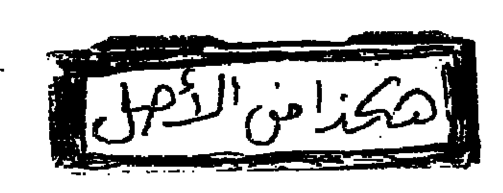


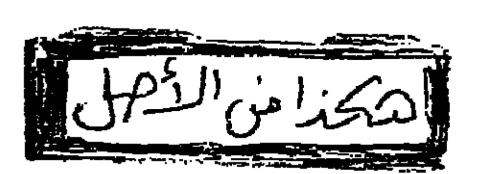
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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS





Law Report March 23 1999 Privy Council

Delay by human rights bodies will not stop executions

Thomas and Another v Baptiste and Others

Before Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Steyn, Lord Hobhouse of Woodborough and Lord Millett

[Reasons March 17]

Persons under sentence of death who had lodged petitions with international bodies had a constitutional right not to be executed until final determination of their petitions, but delay caused by the slowness of the bodies in dealing with the petitions would not prevent the death sentence from being carried out.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (Lord Goff and Lord Hobhouse dissenting) so stated in giving reasons for their decision to grant a stay of the death sentences passed upon the appellants, Darrin Roger Thomas and Haniff Hilaire, for murder pending the determination of their current petitions to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, but otherwise their Lordships, Lord Steyn dissenting, dismissed the appellants' appeals from the judgment of the Court of Appeal of Trinidad and Tobago, which had allowed an appeal by the respondents, Cipriani Baptiste, Commissioner of Prisons, Evelyn Ann Peterson, Registrar of the Supreme Court, and the Attorney-General of Trinidad and Tobago, from Mr Justice Jamadar in the High Court of Trinidad and Tobago, who had granted Thomas' constitutional motion. The Court of Appeal had dismissed Hilaire's appeal from dismissal by Mr Justice Kangaloo of his constitutional motion.

Mr Nicholas Blake, QC, Mr Keir Starmer and Mr Gregory Delzin, of the Trinidad and Tobago Bar, for Thomas; Mr James Guthrie, QC, Mr Julian Knowles and Ms Quincy Whitaker for Hilaire; Sir Godfray Le Quesne, QC, Mr Marten Daly, SC, of the Trinidad and Tobago Bar, Mr Russell Martineau, SC, of the Trinidad and Tobago Bar, Mrs Natalie Aimes Darmanie, Assistant Solicitor-General, Trinidad and Tobago, and Mrs Mira Dean-Armorer, SC, Trinidad and Tobago, for the respondents.

LORD MILLETT, delivering the majority judgment to which Lord Browne-Wilkinson and Lord Steyn were parties, said that the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago affirmed the right of the individual to life and liberty and the right not to be deprived thereof "except by due process of law" (section 4(a)), and prohibited the imposition of "cruel and unusual treatment or punishment" (section 5(2)(b)).

The government of Trinidad and Tobago had ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and had acceded to the Optional Protocol, which gave individuals right of access to the United Nation Human Rights Committee (UNHRC).

The government had also ratified the American Convention on Human Rights 1969, which established the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR).

In *Pratt v Attorney-General for Jamaica* ([1994] 2 AC 1) the Board ruled that the aim should be to hear a capital appeal in Jamaica within 12 months of conviction and to complete the entire domestic appeal process within two years; that it should be possible to complete applications to the UNHRC at most within a further 18 months; and that where execution was to take place more than five years after sentence there would be strong grounds for believing that the carrying out of the sentence would constitute inhuman or degrading punishment or other treatment contrary to the Constitution of Jamaica.

By 1997 a significant number of persons sentenced to death in Trinidad and Tobago were petitioning the UNHRC or the commission.

The government became concerned that even if the petitions were dismissed they would not be dealt with in time to allow the sentences to be carried out within the time limits contemplated in *Pratt*.

On October 13, 1997, the government published "Instructions relating to applications from persons under sentence of death" prescribing strict time limits and procedures for applications by such prisoners to the UNHRC and the commission.

Those Instructions did not achieve the desired effect, and so on May 26, 1998, Trinidad and Tobago denounced the Convention, as it was entitled to do, with effect from May 26, 1999, and it denounced the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant with effect from August 26, 1998, re-acceding to it subject to a reservation in respect of anyone condemned to death.

The IACHR had made orders requiring the government to refrain from carrying out the death sentences pending its determination of the petitions. Despite that the government proposed to carry out the death sentences in defiance of those orders.

The Instructions

Their Lordships were satisfied that the Instructions were unlawful. That was not because they were calculated to put Trinidad and Tobago in breach of the International Covenant or the Convention, for those had not been incorporated into and did not form part of the law of Trinidad and Tobago, but because they were disproportionate.

It was reasonable for the government to take action to ensure that lawful sentences should not be frustrated by events beyond its control, and to provide some outside time limit within which the international appellate processes should be completed. The government was entitled to take appropriate measures to ensure that the international appellate processes did not prevent lawful sentences from being carried out.

It was also reasonable to provide for the possibility of successive applications to the same or different bodies. But the Instructions were disproportionate because they curtailed petitioners' rights further than was necessary.

It would have been sufficient to prescribe an outside period of (say) 18 months for the completion of all such processes. That could apply whether the petitioner made only one application or applied successively to more than one international body or made successive applications to the same body.

It was unnecessary and inappropriate to provide separate and successive time limits for each application and for each stage of each application, thereby drastically and unnecessarily curtailing the time limits within which the first such body could complete its processes.

Due process

"Due process of law" in the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago was a compendious expression in which "law" did not refer to any particular law and was not a synonym for common law or statute.

It invoked the concept of the rule of law itself and the universally accepted standards of justice observed by civilised nations which observed the rule of law.

The clause gave constitutional protection to the concept of procedural fairness and extended to the appellate process as well as the trial. It included the right of a condemned man to be allowed to complete any appellate or analogous legal process capable of resulting in a reduction or commutation of his sentence before the process was rendered nugatory by executive action.

The appellants contended that their constitutional right to due process would be infringed if they were to be executed while their current petitions to the commission were still pending.

Their Lordships recognised the constitutional importance of the principle that international conventions did not alter domestic law except to the extent that they were incorporated into domestic law by legislation.

However, the right for which the appellants contended was the general right accorded to all litigants not to have the outcome of any pending appellate or other legal process pre-empted by executive action.

That general right was not created by the Convention: it was accorded by the common law and affirmed by section 4(a) of the Constitution. The appellants were not seeking to enforce the terms of an unincorporated treaty, but a provision of the domestic law contained in the Constitution.

By ratifying a treaty which provided for individual access to an international body, the government made that process for the time being part of the domestic criminal justice system and thereby temporarily at least extended the scope of the due process clause in the Constitution.

The executive might withdraw rights it had granted, but that principle was not without exception. Executive action might give rise to a settled practice, which might found a constitutional right which could not lawfully be withdrawn by executive action alone.

Even when executive action fell short of that, as in the present case, it might confer a right for the time being which could not be withdrawn retrospectively without infringing the due process clause.

Their Lordships did not doubt the right of the government to denounce the Convention and were content to assume, without deciding, that the government was entitled to curtail such rights of access or prescribe conditions for their exercise for the future, but section 4(a) of the Constitution prevented it from doing so retrospectively so as to affect existing applications.

Although the Instructions were published before either appellant lodged a competent petition the invalidity of the Instructions prevented the government from relying on them to justify carrying out the death sentences.

The appellants hoped to obtain binding rulings from the IACHR that their convictions should be quashed or their sentences should be commuted. For the government to carry out the death sentences before the petitions had been heard would deny the appellants their constitutional right to due process.

The executions should be stayed until their petitions were finally disposed of and the rulings of the commission and the IACHR had been considered by the relevant authorities.

Cruel and unusual treatment or punishment

The appellants sought to have the sentences commuted and invoked section 5(2)(b) of the Constitution, which prohibited the infliction of cruel and unusual treatment or punishment.

They relied on the length of time during which they had been kept in prison, both before and after conviction, and on the conditions in prison. Thomas also submitted that it was unconstitutional for the Court of Appeal to reinstate the death sentence.

Delay

Thomas spent a total of five years and three months in custody before the warrant was read and Hilaire seven years and five months. In *Fisher v Minister of Public Safety and Immigration* ([1998] AC 673) the Board held that pre-trial delay could not be taken into account save in exceptional circumstances.

The periods of detention had not been so prolonged that it would now be unconstitutional to carry out the death sentence in the case of either appellant. In neither case was the period allowed for in *Pratt* for post-conviction delay exceeded. Thomas' trial was not unreasonably delayed but Hilaire's was.

In *Director of Public Prosecutions v Tokai* ([1996] AC 856) the Board held that the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago afforded an accused a right to a fair trial but not to a speedy trial or a trial within a reasonable time.

There was no evidence that the delay in bringing Hilaire to trial made his trial unfair, and so it did not contravene his constitutional rights.

If pre-trial delay was ever relevant to the inhumanity of carrying out the death sentence it had to be because of the total period that had elapsed before and after conviction. That was sufficient to dispose of the issue in the present case.

In allowing only 18 months to complete the international processes, the Board could with hindsight be seen to have been unduly optimistic in *Pratt*. Their Lordships had considered whether a much longer period should be substituted, but had concluded that would not meet the case.

Prompt determination by human rights bodies of applications from men condemned to death was more likely to be achieved if delay in dealing with them did not automatically lead to commutation of the sentence.

Conclusion

The execution of the appellants was stayed but subject thereto their appeals were dismissed. Similar considerations would apply to other persons under to sentence of death in Trinidad and Tobago who had lodged petitions with the commission or the UNHRC.

The Advisory Committee might take into account the slowness of the international bodies in dealing with such petitions, but such delays should not prevent the death sentence from being carried out.

Where more than 18 months elapsed between the date on which a condemned man lodged a petition to an international body and its final determination, it would be appropriate to add the excess to the period of 18 months allowed for in *Pratt*.

LORD GOFF and LORD HOBHOUSE, in delivering a dissenting judgment in favour of dismissing the appeals, said that it was the laws of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago alone on which the appellants were entitled to rely in support of their constitutional motions.

"Due process of law" in section 4(a) of the Constitution was a reference to the municipal law of the Republic in force at the date of the Constitution or enacted by Parliament since then.

The two unincorporated human rights treaties could not as such be invoked by the appellants as a basis for alleging an infringement of the Constitution.

Under the law of the Republic they had been tried, convicted of murder, condemned to death and had fully exercised and exhausted their rights of appeal. There had been no want of due process of law.

They might be at liberty to complain to the human rights commissions but they had no right to do so. If the treaty purported to confer such a right, it had only done so for the purpose of international law and not for the purpose of the law of the Republic.

In asserting that the right which the appellants invoked was the right not to have the outcome of any pending appellate or other legal process pre-empted by executive action, the majority were assuming what they had to prove, namely that the opportunity to invoke the jurisdiction of the UNHRC and the IACHR constituted a legal right and therefore part of the legal process of the Republic.

The Instructions were a loyal attempt by the government to address the consequences of the decision in *Pratt*. To hold the Instructions unlawful would be a disproportionate response to the failure of the government's attempt to reconcile the treaties and the law.

In their Lordships' opinion the Instructions were not unlawful. The appeals should be dismissed and the application for a stay refused.

LORD STEYN, concurring with the stay but dissenting on commutation, said that the death sentences should be commuted and terms of life imprisonment substituted. The state might not superimpose on the inevitable consequences of a death sentence inhuman treatment in the sense of additional unnecessary and avoidable agony and suffering.

There were irreducible minimum standards of treatment of condemned men which a state had to observe.

Solicitors: Lovell White Durrant; Simmons & Simmons; Charles Russell.

Power to displace patient's relative

Regina v Central London County Court and Another, Ex parte London

Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Robert Walker

[Judgment March 15]

A county court had power to make an ex parte or interim order when considering an application under section 29(3) of the Mental Health Act 1983 to displace a patient's nearest relative.

Hospital managers acted lawfully upon such an ex parte and interim order when they compulsorily admitted the patient for treatment on an application under section 3 of the Act before the section 29 application had been finally determined.

However, unless there were cogent reasons to the contrary, questions under section 29(3)(c) should be finally determined before an application was made under section 3.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment when, inter alia, dismissing an appeal by the applicant, Ax London, against the dismissal by Mr Justice Owen on March 13, 1997 of his application for judicial review of an ex parte order of Judge Green, QC, sitting at Central London County Court dated March 8, 1996 and an interim order of Judge Rich, QC, at the same court on March 15, 1996 purporting to displace the applicant's mother, Mrs Mirella Grossman, as his nearest relative; and a decision by the managers of the Gordon Hospital, dated March 22, 1996, based on the county court orders, purporting to admit the applicant compulsorily to hospital for treatment under section 3 of the Act.

Section 38 of the County Courts Act 1984, as substituted by section 3 of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990, provides:

"(1) ... in any proceedings in a county court the court may make any order which could be made by the High Court if the proceedings were in the High Court...

"(2) Any order made by a county court may be (a) absolute or conditional; (b) final or interlocutory."

Section 29 of the Mental Health Act 1983 provides:

"(1) The county court may, upon application made in accordance with the provisions of this section in respect of a patient, by order direct that the functions of the nearest relative of the patient ... shall, during the continuance in force of the order, be exercisable by the applicant, or by any other person specified in the application, being a person who, in the opinion of the court, is a proper person to act as the patient's nearest relative and is willing to do so...

"(3) An application for an order under this section may be made upon any of the following grounds ... (c) that the nearest relative of the patient unreasonably objects to the making of an application for admission for treatment ... of the patient..."

Mr Nigel Pleming, QC and Mr Rabinder Singh for the applicant; Mr Christopher Katkowski for the county court; Miss Presiley Baxendale, QC and Gerard Clarke for the hospital managers.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH said that the appeal raised questions of general importance in relation to the role of the nearest relative and the powers of the county court to make ex parte and interim orders under section 29 of the 1983 Act, which empowered the court to displace the nearest relative in certain circumstances.

The applicant had a long history of schizophrenia with admissions to hospital since September 1985.

On March 6, 1996 he was admitted to the hospital as an emergency admission under section 4 and was re-graded to a section 2 (admission for assessment) patient. On March 8, 1996, Judge Green, QC, purporting to act under section 29 on an ex parte application, made an order displacing the applicant's mother as his nearest relative and adjourned the matter until March 15, when Judge Rich, QC, reconsidered the application inter partes.

He accepted the section 29(3)(c) ground and made an order continuing the previous order and adjourned further consideration of the application until April 3.

On March 22, on the application of the social services purporting to act as the nearest relative, the applicant's mother not having been consulted, the applicant was compulsorily admitted to hospital for treatment under section 3 of the Act.

On July 12, 1996 the county court made a final order displacing the mother as the nearest relative. No complaint was made about that order.

On August 15, 1996 the hospital managers purported to admit the applicant under section 3 without prejudice to the contention that the original section 3 admission was valid.

The applicant had since left the hospital.

The relevant powers of the county court were contained in section 38 of the County Courts Act 1984, as substituted. That was a perfectly general power, designed to equate the powers of the county court to those of the High Court.

Mr Pleming accepted that section 38 was wide enough to confer jurisdiction on the county court, but submitted that when regard was had to the scheme of the 1983 Act, it was apparent that Parliament did not contemplate the making of anything but a final order under section 29 and accordingly, especially as the Act was concerned with restricting the liberty of the subject and should be given a restricted interpretation, the court had no jurisdiction to make the orders challenged. Put another way, he submitted that the Act did not contemplate that an application for admission for treatment could be made under section 3, or a patient admitted pursuant to such application, while the nearest relative objected; the procedure of obtaining an order under section 29 had to be completed and the nearest relative displaced by final order before such application or admission could be made.

No difficulty arose, he submitted, if that was so, because the detention under section 2 was extended under section 29(4) until the displacement procedure was complete and the time for appealing had expired.

But while the procedure under section 29(4) would have been available in the present case, there was no express exclusion of the power conferred by section 38 of the 1984 Act.

Parliament must have been taken to have enacted the Act in the light of the existing powers of the court, and simply because the machinery existed which could have been followed, that did not necessarily mean that the more general powers were excluded.

Mr Pleming's strongest argument involved consideration of what would happen if an interim order under section 29 was made displacing the nearest relative which was followed by an admission under section 3, but on the final determination no order was made and the interim order was discharged.

The patient would remain in detention, but the nearest relative could apply to discharge him under section 23, subject to the limited power to block discharge under section 25.

He was not, Mr Pleming submitted, in as good a position as if the section 3 admission had never been made because the nearest relative did not consent.

His Lordship saw the force of that submission and in a case like the present, where section 29(4) could be used, it was undesirable to make an interim order so that a section 3 admission might subsequently have to be unscrambled.

But his Lordship was not persuaded that in practice it would result in any disadvantage to the patient.

Section 30(4) of the 1983 Act envisaged that an application under section 29 could be made concurrently with or subsequent to an application under section 3.

In particular, an application might need to be made under section 29(3)(d), where the nearest relative had exercised his power to discharge without regard to the welfare of the patient or the interests of the public or was likely to do so.

The blocking power under section 25 might not be applicable.

In such circumstances it might well be impossible to make a final order in time to prevent discharge and an interim order might be necessary.

There was nothing in the scheme of the Act which pointed against the making of an interim order in such a case and his Lordship saw no reason to cut down the general power conferred by section 38 of the 1984 Act.

As a matter of jurisdiction therefore there was power to make an interim order in any case under section 29. Accordingly, the court did have jurisdiction to make the orders of March 8 and 15.

But, unless there were cogent reasons to the contrary, it was preferable that questions under section 29(3)(c) should be finally determined before an application was made under section 3, and the machinery of extension of detention under section 2 afforded by section 29(4) should be used.

It followed that the challenge failed both to the county court orders and the decision of March 22, 1996 by the hospital managers to admit the applicant. In those circumstances, the alternative argument as to the validity of the decision to admit the applicant did not strictly fall to be considered.

His Lordship considered a number of authorities, including *Boddington v British Transport Police* ([1998] 2 WLR 629), *Percy v Hall* ([1997] QB 924) and *R v Governor of Brockhill Prison, Ex parte Evans (No 2)* ([1999] 2 WLR 102) and said that even if the court had held that the county court had no jurisdiction to make the orders of March 8 and 15, the decision of the hospital managers to admit the applicant on March 22 was valid and should not be quashed.

Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Robert Walker agreed.

Solicitors: Gill & Co; Treasury Solicitor; Radcliffes.

Inspectors cannot insist on confidentiality

Thomas and Another v Maxwell, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry intervening

Before Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chancellor

[Judgment March 11]

Inspectors appointed under Part XIV of the Companies Act 1985 to investigate the affairs of a company had no legal obligation to those from whom they obtained information to insist on confidentiality undertakings being given by others before whom, for the purposes of their inquiry, they wished to put the information.

Although inspectors were entitled as a matter of discretion to ask a witness to sign a confidentiality undertaking, it did not follow that a refusal to comply, particularly in circumstances where the undertaking sought went further than was reasonable or necessary, represented a failure to give all reasonable assistance giving rise to contempt of court.

Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chancellor, so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division refusing an application of Sir Roger John Laugharne Thomas and Raymond Thomas Turner, inspectors appointed under the Companies Act 1985 to inquire into Mirror Group Newspapers plc, for an order under section 436 of the 1985 Act against Mr Kevin Maxwell as if he had been guilty of contempt of court.

The inspectors referred to the court the refusal of Mr Maxwell, an ex-director of Mirror Group, to answer their questions and his refusal to enter into a confidentiality undertaking not to disclose information put to him in the course of their questioning.

Mr Maxwell submitted that the inspectors had no express power under the 1985 Act to require him to sign a confidentiality undertaking, and that the circumstances of the case, in particular the cumulative duration of 61 days of interrogation under the Insolvency Act 1986, the Criminal Justice Act 1987, and in criminal proceedings against him, had rendered the inspectors' questioning of him, an unrepresented person, unfair and oppressive.

Lord Neill of Bladen, QC, Mr Jack Beatson, QC and Mr Nicholas Peacock for the inspectors; Mr Maxwell in person; Mr Philip Heslop, QC and Mr Philip Sales for the secretary of state.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR said that section 434(1)(c) and (2) imposed on a person such as Mr Maxwell the obligation to give the inspectors "all assistance in connection with the investigation which he is reasonably able to give".

The inspectors' case therefore was that the signing of the confidentiality undertaking represented assistance in connection with the investigation that Mr Maxwell was reasonably able to give.

Hearts of Oak Assurance Co Ltd v Attorney-General ([1932] AC 392) stood as clear authority that Part XIV company inspections were to be conducted in private and that the inspectors should not make public information disclosed to them in the course of the investigation.

But the case did not impose any other limitation on the way in which inspectors, sitting in private, conducted their investigation.

The inspectors owed to those from whom they had obtained information or documents no duty that might inhibit them in the use of that information for the purpose of their statutory inquiry.

They were under no duty to those from whom they obtained information that precluded them from putting information to Mr Maxwell in order to ask him questions about them.

They did not owe a duty that required them, as a condition precedent, to extract a confidentiality undertaking from Mr Maxwell.

The inspectors were certainly entitled, as a matter of discretion, to ask Mr Maxwell to sign a confidentiality undertaking. But it did not follow that his refusal to comply could be categorised as a failure to give them "all reasonable assistance".

But why should Mr Maxwell, if he chose to do so, not make public the questions and answers? The cloak of confidentiality was imposed by law on the questions and answers for the benefit of the individual who was supplying the information; not in order to shackle him in the use to which he might desire to put the information.

His Lordship did not accept that the inspectors had any legal obligation to those from whom they obtained information to insist on confidentiality undertakings being given by others before whom, for the purposes of their inquiry, they wished to put the information or documents.

In his Lordship's judgment therefore the signing by a proposed witness of a confidentiality undertaking was not a pre-requisite for the protection of confidential material placed before him by inspectors, provided always that he was put on notice of its confidential character.

The confidentiality undertaking that the inspectors required Mr Maxwell to sign went a good deal further than was either reasonable or necessary.

Mr Maxwell's refusal to sign did not represent a failure on his part to give the inspectors any assistance he was reasonably able to give. That being so, no question arose of his refusal being dealt with as if a contempt of court.

Mr Maxwell had made it very clear that the unfairness and oppression he complained of resulted from the cumulative effect of several factors.

Underpinning each and every one of his complaints was his complaint that he had no funding for legal representation.

The potential burden that the questioning might place on Mr Maxwell seemed at risk of going beyond that which an unrepresented individual could reasonably be required to accept.

The steps suggested by his Lordship that the inspectors should take in order to reduce the burden should not be regarded as a precedent for other inquiries.

Subject to those steps being taken, however, Mr Maxwell would not be entitled to refuse to answer the inspectors' questions.

Any further refusal was likely to constitute a breach of his statutory obligations under the 1985 Act.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Treasury Solicitor.

No anonymity in sex case for body corporate

Leicester University v A

Before Judge Peter Clark, Mr A. C. Blyghton and Mr I. Ezekiel

[Judgment February 11]

In cases containing allegations of sexual misconduct, an employment tribunal had no power to make a restricted reporting order against a body corporate since the words in section 11(6) of the Employment Tribunals Act 1996 describing "identifying matter" as matter likely to lead members of the public to identify someone as "a person affected by ... the allegation" could only relate to an individual.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held in a reserved judgment when dismissing an appeal by Leicester University from a decision of a tribunal chairman sitting alone, (Mr J. A. Threlfall) on December 2, 1998, that the university was not a "person affected" by the allegation of sexual misconduct within the meaning of section 11(6).

Section 11 of the 1996 Act, formerly the Industrial Tribunals Act 1996 renamed by section 1(2) of the Employment Rights (Dispute Resolution) Act 1998, provides: "(1) Employment tribunal procedure regulations may include provision ... (b) for cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct, enabling an employment tribunal ... to make a restricted reporting order...

"(2) If any identifying matter is published ... in contravention of a restricted reporting order [the person publishing the matter] shall be guilty of an offence...

"(6) ... 'identifying matter', in relation to a person, means any matter likely to lead members of the public to identify him as a person affected by ... the allegation."

Mr Paul Rose for the university; the respondent in person.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the female applicant had brought a complaint of unlawful sex discrimination against her employer, the university. She complained that she had been persistently sexually harassed by a male employee, X.

A tribunal chairman revoked a previous restricted reporting order which included the university and ruled that the only persons affected by the allegation and entitled to have their identities protected were the applicant, X and two witnesses alleged to have seen the acts of harassment.

He expressed the view that he was bound by a decision of the Divisional Court in *R v London (North) Industrial Tribunal, Ex parte Associated Newspapers* ([1998] IRLR 569).

In *M v Vincent* ([1998] ICR 73), the appeal tribunal had concluded that a tribunal chairman was wrong to conclude that he did not have power to to make a restricted reporting order against a body corporate.

In the *London (North)* case the Divisional Court doubted that Parliament had ever intended that a corporate body should come within the phrase "person affected by" in section 11(6).

As a matter of pure construction the appeal tribunal agreed with the decision in *M v Vincent* that the word "person" in section 11(6) was capable of including corporate or unincorporated bodies. However, Mr Justice Morison, in the latter case, had not been required to go on to consider whether in the context of section 11(6) the words "person affected by ... the allegation" was intended by Parliament to include protection for anyone other than an individual. That was the point which arose in the present case.

What was not argued in *M v Vincent* was that the company required inclusion in the restricted reporting order to protect its trading reputation.

That was the real question in the present case and was the question which the Divisional Court had not answered conclusively in the *London (North)* case.

The appeal tribunal had concluded that it was the clear intention of Parliament to extend the protection of anonymity to individuals only, that was the party making the complaint and the individual against whom the allegation of sexual misconduct ws made, together with any other relevant individuals to the matters in issue.

It was not Parliament's intention to extend the restriction to protect the reputation of corporate respondents, even though that might lead to diparity between the parties to the proceedings as to the publicity that could be given to each of them.

The tribunal chairman was correct in law in making an order limited to the four named individuals. The appeal would be dismissed and leave to appeal refused.

Solicitors: Ironsides, Leicester.

Scots Law Report March 23 1999 Inner House

Adoption order was made in mother's absence

S Petitioner

Before Lord Prosser, Lord Caplan and Lord Allanbridge

[Judgment January 19]

Where the natural mother of a child appealed against an adoption order made by the sheriff in her absence, and an issue arose as to whether all reasonable steps had been taken to find her, prior to her consent being dispensed with, a hearing before the sheriff was necessary.

The rehearing would consider the whole merits of the order. In practical and realistic terms, the issue of whether the natural mother could be found was now best seen as spent.

Furthermore, a rehearing was necessary on the broad ground expressed by Lord Justice Salmon in *In re F(R) (An Infant)* ([1970] 1 QB 385) that the future of a child was too important to depend upon esoteric points of law or practice.

The Inner House of the Court of Session so held, allowing an appeal by M against a decision of the sheriff at Airdrie to dispense with her consent and to make an adoption order in favour of S in respect of a child, L.

Mrs Valerie Stacey for S; Mrs Janys Scott for M.

LORD PROSSER, delivering the opinion of the court, said that the sheriff had dispensed with the consent of M, the natural mother, on the ground, inter alia, that she could not be found. The appellant sought a recall of the order.

The question of whether a parent or guardian could be found was fundamental to the issue of dispensing with his agreement in terms of section 16(1)(b)(ii) and section 16(2)(a) of the Adoption (Scotland) Act 1978.

It was a matter for the local authority to report upon under rule 2.21(3)(f) of the Act of Sederunt (Child Care and Maintenance Rules) (SI 1997 No 291). It was also procedurally crucial for fixing a diet of hearing under rule 2.28.

In interpreting the meaning of the words "cannot be found" in section 16(2)(a) and "can be found" in rule 2.28, the appellant referred to *In re F(R)*. The construction of similar English provisions was appropriate in construing the Scottish provisions. That case was therefore in point. There were also factual similarities.

The appellant had lodged a minute alleging that S and her brother, the natural father of the child, would have been able to contact her through her own father.

In addition, M alleged that three letters had been sent recently by a solicitor acting for her to the natural father.

The appellant submitted that Lord Justice Salmon's remarks in *In re F(R)* correctly stated the proper approach to construing the words "cannot be found". All reasonable steps had to be taken, and even if only one reasonable step was omitted, one could not say that the person could not be found. In the court's opinion, that was right.

The appellant submitted that that passage provided further assistance.

First, it showed that the appeal court ought to take cognisance of new assertions of fact. If, on the hypothesis that they were true, they appeared to show that a reasonable step had been omitted, then further procedure would be required to discover whether the averred facts could be established.

Second, it showed that inquiries to search for the appellant would involve informing persons such as relatives.

Moreover, the future of a child was much too important to depend on any esoteric points of law or practice. Quite apart from averments as to what reasonable steps might have been taken, a rehearing before the sheriff was appropriate.

The first consideration should always be given to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child in terms of section 6 of the 1978 Act.

The respondent did not dispute the general propositions advanced on behalf of the appellant.

However, the sheriff had been satisfied that a ground for dispensation had also been established under section 16(2)(c), that the parent had persistently failed without reasonable cause to discharge her parental duties.

That was a separate issue. The court should be very reluctant to quash the adoption order, in the absence of even a prima facie case for attacking the sheriff's decision on ground (c).

Moreover, the child had lived with S effectively all her life.

The possibility of the appellant taking part in essential decisions in the child's life had to be seen as disruptive and likely to be against her interests.

On the whole matter, the respondent submitted that the court should refuse the appeal, or, at least abstain from quashing the order.

The court did not criticise the sheriff for reaching his decision. However, the court was satisfied that a rehearing was necessary as an issue had been raised as to whether all reasonable steps had been taken to find the appellant.

Remit was also necessary on Lord Justice Salmon's broad ground. With matters starting again before the sheriff, there was no obligation on the appellant to state her case in advance in relation to ground (c).

Law agents: Macbeth Currie & Co, for McGoogan, Coatbridge; Digby Brown, SSC.

Classic adds famous name to heart of women's tour

GOLF

By John Hopkins
golf correspondent

IN JANUARY, Tim Howland sat in a restaurant in Chelsea and outlined his hopes for women professional golfers in Europe. The new chief executive of the European Ladies' Professional Golf Association talked for nearly an hour about his plans to put women's professional golf on a firmer footing. This morning, he unveils the fruit of his labours over the past three months — the competitive schedule for 1999.

There will be 15 events in ten countries, including mainland Italy for the first time, Morocco, Portugal and Austria, for a total prize fund of £3.1 million. The minimum prize fund for any event is £100,000.

"It puts the tour back on a healthy footing," Howland said yesterday. "It is not a bad effort after just three months and there is a possibility of adding one more event. It is 50 per cent better in terms of the number of events than last year and the prize-money is up by £700,000. We are on course to achieve our five-year goal of a minimum of 20 events in Europe with a minimum prize fund at each event of £250,000."

The tour starts with not so much a bang as an explosion — the Evian Masters in Evian-les-Bains, France, in June, where the prize-money of nearly £690,000 makes it the fifth-biggest event in the world. It continues through Sweden, France, Austria and Germany before it returns to Scotland, England and Sweden in August for what might be termed the heart of the tour.

Between August 5 and 29, there will be three important events in succession followed by the inaugural Laura Davies Classic. The prize-money at these four events alone is nearly £1.5 million and should be enough to guarantee the presence of fields of high quality.

The McDonald's WPGA Championship of Europe, which is likely to move to a new venue in 2000, will be staged again at Gleneagles from August 5 to 8, followed by the Weetabix British Women's Open at Woburn. The tour will then move to Sweden for the Compaq Open before returning to England and Brocket Hall for the event named after Davies, Europe's best-known woman golfer.

"I have just returned from the United States, where I had a meeting about the 2000 Solheim Cup with Ty Votaw, my opposite number," Howland said. "In a sense, I have an easier job than he does. As Laura Davies said to me: 'If you put events with a minimum prize fund of £300,000 on the right dates, then you will certainly get the stars back.'" Davies has committed herself to playing in at least nine events in Europe this year and Alison Nicholas to even more.

Howland is the sixth chief executive of the women's tour since it started in 1979. As this suggests, the tour has had a troubled life, with splits between management and members. Additionally, it has suffered by comparison with the various tours for men professional golfers and getting sponsorship has been like drawing teeth.

Indeed, if there is a doubt about the new schedule, it is based on what has happened in the past, namely that sponsors have been named and events announced at the start of the year, only for a sponsor to reduce its commitment later and perhaps cause an event to be cancelled.

1999 EUROPEAN WOMEN'S TOUR

JUNE: 9-12: Evian Masters, Royal Evian, France
JULY: 1-4: Chrysler Open, Halmstad, Sweden. **8-11:** French Open, Paris International. **15-17:** Austrian Open, Steiermarkischer. **22-25:** German Open, Treudelberg.
AUGUST: 5-8: McDonald's WPGA, Gleneagles. **12-15:** Weetabix British Open, Woburn. **19-22:** Compaq Open, Orebro, Sweden. **27-30:** Laura Davies Classic, Brocket Hall, England.
SEPTEMBER: 2-5: Donegal Irish Open, Letterkenny. **8-10:** Players' Championship, Foxhills, England. **23-25:** Italian Open, Poggio dei Medici, Florence.
OCTOBER: 7-9: Air France Biarritz Open. **22-24:** Marrakesh Palmerale Open, Morocco.
NOVEMBER: 19-21: European Cup v Seniors Tour, Praia d'el Rey, Portugal.



Urmanov plays to the crowd in Helsinki yesterday

New putting style helps Webb win hand down

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

IN THE days before the long putter, putting cack-handed — left hand below right — was one of the last refuges of the desperate. No longer. Karrie Webb, a quiet, unflamboyant Queenslander, has made the cross-handed style acceptable.

It is hard to argue with three wins in six starts and a tally of 82 under par in 23 rounds since she took up the method.

Add in a haul of $419,063 (about £255,500), which includes the $127,500 first prize for victory in the Standard Register Ping tournament at Moon Valley here on Sunday, and you have a 24-year-old phenomenon who has won 12 times and amassed more than $3 million in little more than three years on the United States tour, a record.

Webb switched to what the Americans call the left-hand-low method after a visit to Scotty Cameron, one of the world's putting experts, in California late last year.

Her stroke was filmed from all angles and they decided that she rolled the ball better with her left hand below her right. She has been awesome ever since.

On Sunday she finished with a 69, her seventh successive round under 70, for a total of 274, 14 under par, four shots ahead of Lorie Kane, of Canada.

Janice Moodie and Jane Geddes shared third place on 280 after scorching round in 65. Moodie, 25, from Glasgow, had nine birdies, including three in a row to finish, and is now fifth on the money-list with $154,281 (about £94,000). Webb is No 1.

Herron holds his nerve to see off challengers

FROM JOHN HOPKINS IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA

IF YOUR nickname is Lumpy, then you had better be good at something and, fortunately, Tim Herron is. Herron is an accomplished young golfer, good enough to have led a strong field from first to last in the Bay Hill Invitational, which ended here on Sunday evening, for his third victory on the US tour in the past four years. Herron, 29, outlasted Davis Love III, with whom he had been tied since the second round, and then defeated Tom Lehman on the second hole of a sudden-death play-off.

Victory was expected to go to either of the more experienced Americans and not Herron, who is so nicknamed because of a certain portliness. But Love could not hole a putt and Lehman remains a little short of full match fitness after an operation late last year on the shoulder that he injured on the eve of the 1998 Open.

After 16 consecutive pars, Love bogeyed the 17th to fall one behind Herron and Lehman. Herron failed to hole an eight-foot putt on the 18th for a birdie that would have given him victory, but made no mistake on the second extra hole. He hit a drive as straight as an arrow and an iron to 20 feet, from where he two-putted for a birdie four.

The last round was marked by the poor performances of the four European Ryder Cup players. Bernhard Langer and Ian Woosnam finished with rounds of 79 to share 72nd place on 295, seven over par. Later, Lee Westwood and Colin Montgomerie also had rounds of 79 to finish joint sixtieth on 291, 17 shots adrift of Herron and Lehman.

Russians make most of qualified success

FROM ANGELA COURT IN HELSINKI

THE pressure was obvious when the world figure skating championships began here with the men's qualifying round yesterday. Nerves were on edge and while some competitors shone, others struggled.

The qualifying round used to be a way of securing a place in the main event, but it is now worth 0.4 points towards each skater's final score and this preliminary exercise can, therefore, make or break a challenge for a medal. For Evgeny Plushenko, Alexei Yagudin and Alexei Urmanov, all from Russia, it has almost certainly turned the battle for medals into a three-way contest.

As at the European championships in January, the men's event appears to rest between the three Russians. Plushenko, 16, won the first group with six triple jumps and a quadruple toe loop, while Yagudin won the second, ahead of Urmanov. Few of the other skaters appeared to be capable of breaking the Russians' stranglehold.

The top 15 in each of the two groups will progress to the short programme tonight, but Clive Shorten and Neil Wilson, both of Great Britain, will not be among them. They failed to survive the cut and, since the Britain team is without a woman competitor and anyone in the pairs championship, Charlotte Clements and Gary Shortland, the ice dancers, are the only surviving representatives here.

RACING

Kelleway on track for quick start

BY CHRIS MCGRATH

THOUGH they dispute the dizziest heights of their profession, a diverging emphasis is illustrated by the way Kieren Fallon and Frankie Dettori begin the new Flat season this week.

Dettori is in the desert, helping Godolphin prepare for the *Dubai World Cup* and an exotic season to follow; Fallon, still as inspired by quantity as quality, begins his quest for a third successive championship at Doncaster on Thursday.

The first ammunition for his defence is furnished by Gay Kelleway, who has booked Fallon for Direct Reaction in the Brocklesby Stakes.

Unhappily, the priorities of television mean that the season nowadays opens with a drab apprentice handicap. As its first juvenile contest, however, the Brocklesby can preserve its traditional role as a starting gun to the new campaign.

Kelleway said yesterday: "I had one just beaten by Mind Games in this race, and then Kieren was fourth for me last year and said we would have won with luck in running. This one would be the best I've run, though. My father bought him for 38 grand at Doncaster Sales. He's by College Chapel and is a typical two-year-old, very precocious — a lovely horse, one to follow.

"The Lincoln meeting is my favourite of the year. I've always done well there. Everyone's always raring to go. I just hope my horses feel the same."

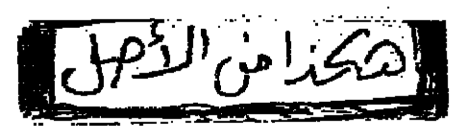
This year Kelleway's usual relish for a fresh start is compounded by having recently moved to new stables at Lingfield racecourse. She has especially earnest hopes, then, that Russian Music can win the Worthington Lincoln itself. "He was second in a listed race at last year's meeting and has gone right down the weights since," she said. "He had a hairline fracture of his hock and was out for a long time, but I've trained him specially for this race and he worked superbly at the weekend. He was once rated 101 but now runs off 87, and he has that bit of quality about him. I've saddled the fourth in the Lincoln but this is definitely the best horse I've run in it. Seb Sanders rides."

Kelleway has evidently settled in quickly since moving from Dorset. "We had nine winners in December, our first month here, and have now filled 50 of the 60 boxes," she said. "With my system, I think I could train winners on the moon, but the facilities here are really good: we've a new woodchip gallop as well as the racetrack to use."

Fallon sits out the Lincoln because of a riding ban picked up during an otherwise productive winter in Hong Kong. The resulting vacancy on the well-backed Chewit was yesterday filled by Darryll Holland. "We had a choice of three jockeys — Darryll, John Reid and Michael Roberts. It was a hard decision," Gary Moore, Chewit's trainer, said.

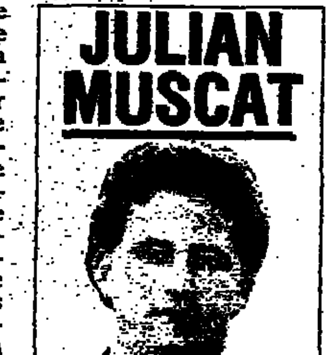
Fallon, meanwhile, was confirming himself in peak form — and consolidating his reputation overseas — by leading a European team to beat their American rivals in an international challenge at Santa Anita. Fallon won two races, the others falling to Olivier Peslier and Kent Desormeaux.

One of the most remarkable achievements on the Flat in 1999 must be chronicled even before the turf season begins. China Castle's success at Southwell yesterday was his seventh on Fibresand since the turn of the year — a spree that reflects splendidly on his trainer, Pat Haslam. Yesterday the gelding ran off a mark two stone higher than when it began on January 11.



RACING: ROAD TO PENURY IS PAVED WITH RUMOUR AND SUPPOSITION

Careless talk costs money



Oh to be a bookmaker now that spring is here. Oh to have been one at Cheltenham, where Ireland's fistful of winners enriched layers beyond their wildest dreams. Of the shamrock-decorated quintet, only Istabraq was truly fancied and he started at a prohibitive 9-4 on. Even the boards-breaking J.P McManus felt the pinch halfway through the second day, when his Khayrawani claimed the Coral Cup at a whopping 16-1.

"There was a reason for that," McManus said of the handsome pay-off. "I hadn't the courage to back him after taking some heavy hits." J. P can afford to be magnanimous. "There's no victory like the unexpected," he reflected. His thoughts perfectly amplified the philosophy of bookmakers, a capacity in which McManus once traded with conspicuous success.

In that earlier life, he will have quaffed long into the night on the cocktail of supposition, rumour, innuendo and downright lies that will prompt punters to venture like lambs to the slaughter in the coming weeks.

While harping back to earlier lives, enthusiasts who live for Flat racing would once have revelled in the headline "AND THEY'RE OFF," as a big field for the Spring Apprentice Handicap at Doncaster clatters, pictorially, from the stalls. We may still get the photograph, but the fact is that the horses have been off on all-weather tracks throughout the winter. Nevertheless, Doncaster's three-day turf fixture offers tangible proof that the standard of Flat racing is about to rise several bloodlines higher. Not at Town Moor itself, where a series of unfathomable contests will doubtless widen the collective betting-ring smile.

No, the real danger rests in containing the irrepressible flood of whispers, gossip and gallop reports soon to emanate from Newmarket, the headquarters of Flat racing. You see, it is not enough to brag that you backed the 2,000 Guineas winner at 7-2 on the day of the race. You must have backed it ante-post at 20-1: before its Guineas trial, before anyone else was in the know.

You have to be seen as a judge, the one who winks knowingly when buying the celebratory champagne. The truth is that for every lucky Charlie standing at the bar, there are 20 others cancelling speculatively-prepared trips to the Caribbean, 20 more who cannot face their friends for six months and a further score who will forever look like Macbeth on seeing the ghost of Banquo. Then there is the well-known Newmarket correspondent, long since absent from the blasted Heath, who could contemplate life only if Henry Cecil had triumphed in the season's opening classics.

Mind you, the laid-back Cecil tends to have that effect on people. His blind following gives punters little chance. Want to back his Killer Instinct for the 2,000 Guineas? You've already missed the boat: the colt dropped to 10-1 from 16s over the weekend after impressing in a gallop.

To these punters, it matters not a jot that the aforementioned workout wouldn't have taxed a circumspect two-mile chaser with a serious attitude problem. Not just any old chaser, of course, but one like Green Green Desert, fourth in the Champion Chase last week but who, in this very week five years ago, was all the betting rage for the 2,000 Guineas. It's funny how the wheel can turn.

The fact about most significant Newmarket gallops is that they take place well away from prying eyes on a strip of grassland stretching from deepest Cambridgeshire well beyond the border with Suffolk. Or in the case of Michael Stoute, well away from Newmarket altogether.

Stoute, whose killer instinct with thoroughbreds is not founded on gallops gossip, took his 2,000 Guineas hope, Entrepreneur, to Sandown early one morning and was safely back at home before the start of Whitbread Gold Cup day. He was genuinely taken aback when his blind-side move received a hostile Press, including in these columns, to which his response was characteristically to the point. What partially defused the Bajan's ticking time-bomb was the admission that very few journalists, this one among them, would have appreciated the true significance of Entrepreneur's work.

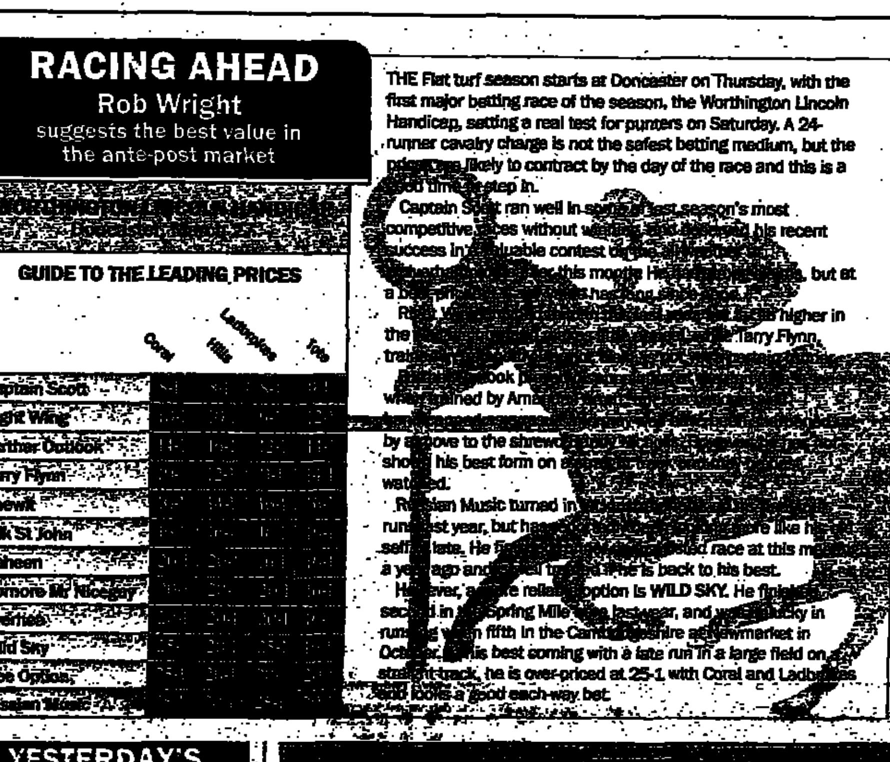
As much was plain six years ago, when favourable reports emanated from Tenby's moderate work with less-than-salubrious companions in his last gallop before a Derby he approached as the red-hot favourite. Needless to say, Tenby started odds-on for the Blue Riband and never showed.

For those anxious to avoid the onset of bankruptcy, the message is clear. Let the lucky Charlie at the bar savour his moment. Do not be envious in the slightest. There is a classic barometer which predicts the deluge with far greater accuracy. It is unglamorous, eschews rumours of blistering gallops, but nevertheless forecasts that Stravinsky, Mujahid, Enrique and Auction House — who collectively dominate advance betting on the 2,000 Guineas — are unlikely winners of the classic. More about that next week.


Horses return from the gallops bringing with them gossip which can cost backers dear

RACING AHEAD

Rob Wright suggests the best value in the ante-post market



THE Flat turf season starts at Doncaster on Thursday, with the first major betting race of the season, the Worthington Lincoln Handicap, setting a real test for punters on Saturday. A 24-runner cavalry charge is not the safest betting medium, but the prices are likely to contract by the day of the race and this is a good time to step in.

Captain Scott ran well in spite of last season's most ...

However, a more reliable option is WILD SKY. He finished second in the Spring Mile last year, and was unlucky in running when fifth in the Cambridgeshire at Newmarket in October. At his best coming with a late run in a large field on a straight track, he is over-priced at 25-1 with Coral and Ladbrokes and looks a good each-way bet.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Newcastle

Going: soft, heavy in places

2.00 (2m 110yd ch) 1, Bamburgh Boy (L Wyer, 4-9 fav); 2, Pomic (9-4); 3, Brave Man (100-1). 7 ran. ¾l, dist. T Easterby. Tote: £1.50; £1.00, £4.20. DF: £1.60. CSF: £1.75.

2.30 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Latin Leader (D Parker, 11-2 fav); 2, Noble Norman (8-1); 3, Muhtadi (25-1); 4, In Good Faith (16-1). 17 ran. 2½l, 8l. C Parker. Tote: £7.30; £2.00, £1.90, £11.10, £4.40. DF: £16.40. CSF: £44.24. Tricast: £975.73.

3.00 (3m ch) 1, Buckshee (Mrs V Jackson, 3-1); 2, Miners Melody (5-1); 3, Fiscal Policy (12-1). Megsled (5th) 9-4 fav. 10 ran. NR: Joint Account. 4l, ½l. Mrs D Gibson. Tote: £3.90; £1.60, £2.50, £3.00. DF: £10.20. CSF: £17.23.

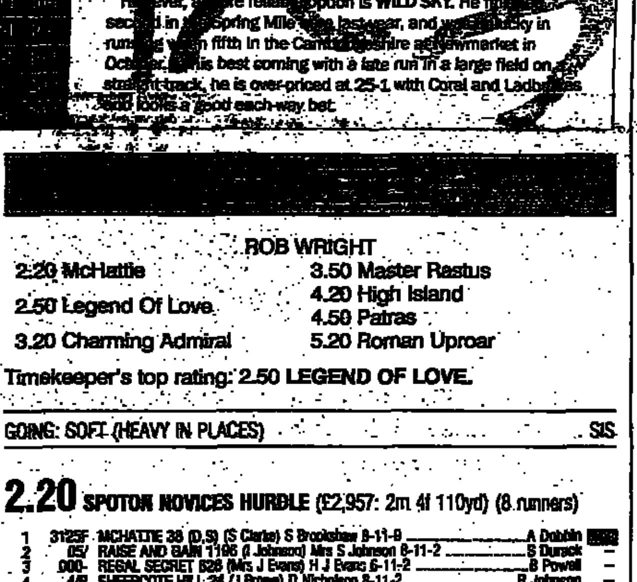
3.30 (2m hdle) 1, One Stop (S Taylor, 11-4); 2, Splendid Occasion (8-1); 3, Monis (4-5 fav). 10 ran. 1½l, ½l. M Barnes. Tote: £3.90; £1.70, £1.10, £1.20. DF: £20.20. CSF: £24.72.

Southwell

Going: standard

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: MASTER RASTUS (3.50 Uttoxeter)



ROB WRIGHT

2.20 McHattie
2.50 Legend Of Love
3.20 Charming Admiral
3.50 Master Rastus
4.20 High Island
4.50 Patras
5.20 Roman Uproar

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.50 LEGEND OF LOVE.

GOING: SOFT (HEAVY IN PLACES) SIS

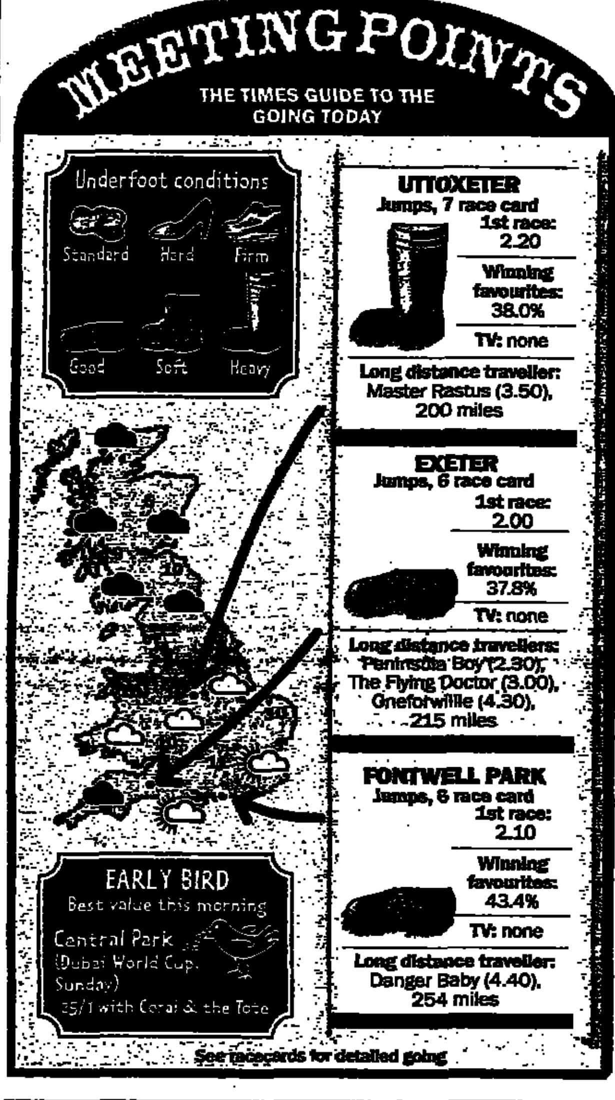
2.20 SPOTON NOVICES HURDLE (£2,957: 2m 4f 110yd) (8 runners)

1 3125F MCHATTIE 38 (D,S) (S Clarke) S Brookshaw 8-11-8 A Dobbin
2 05/ RAISE AND GAIN 1196 (J Johnson) Mrs S Johnson 8-11-2 S Durack —
3 000- REGAL SECRET 328 (Mrs J Evans) H J Evans 6-11-2 B Powell —
4 4/P SHEEPCOTE HILL 24 (J Brown) D Nicholson 8-11-2 R Johnson —
5 52134 WESTERTON 31 (S) (J Murdoch) J FitzGerald 6-11-2 P Niven 87
6 3 LONG ROOM LADY 28 (The Yes,No,Wait,Sorries) N Twiston-Davies 5-10-11 C Llewellyn 39
7 06-060 THE POLECAT 58 (Mrs D Graham) W Jenks 7-10-11 T Jenks —
8 322202 SAXON VICTORY 35 (Saxon Victory Partnership) Mrs V Ward 4-10-7 R Thornton 87

BETTING: 6-4 McHattie, 2-1 Long Room Lady, 4-1 Saxon Victory, 6-1 Westerton, 14-1 others.

2.50 STREBEL BOILERS & RADIATORS NOVICES SELLING HURDLE (£1,574: 2m) (10 runners)

3.20 NORTHERN RACING NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE



3.50 TRENTHAM GARDENS HANDICAP HURDLE (£5,790: 3m) (5 runners)

4.20 ST MODWEN HANDICAP CHASE (£3,631: 3m 2f) (6 runners)

4.50 RACECOURSE VIDEO CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,390: 2m) (4 runners)

5.20 DONCASTER BLOODSTOCK NH FLAT (£1,410: 2m) (10 runners)

EXETER

ROB WRIGHT

2.00 Toy Box. 2.30 Quickswood. 3.00 Country Store. 3.30 Seymourswift. 4.00 Toskano. 4.30 Northern Drums.

Carl Evans: 4.00 Henry Bruce.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

2.00 ROBERT WEBB TRAVEL NOVICES SELLING HURDLE (£1,786: 2m 1f 110yd) (11 runners)

101 3210 DUBLIN RIVER 18 (B,S) J O'Shea 6-11-8 Michael Brennan 67
102 1PPP DUTCH 109 (V,CD,S) A Barrow 7-11-2 X Aizpuru (3) 49
103 0F30 GURU RINPOCHE 19 R Frost 7-11-2 J Frost 59
104 D05 JANDAL 19 P Rodford 5-11-2 S Burrough —
105 -6PF HENBURY PRINCESS 14 B Millman 6-10-11 D Salter —
106 -P06 SEE MINNOW 14 Miss S Waterman 6-10-11 Mr D O'Meara (7) 33

2.30 GOSHAWK NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

3.00 HEAVITREE BREWERY CUP NOVICES CHASE [SHOWCASE HANDICAP AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE]

3.30 BUZZARD HANDICAP CHASE

4.00 ROBERT WEBB TRAVEL OPEN HUNTERS CHASE

4.30 ROBERT WEBB TRAVEL HANDICAP HURDLE

FONTWELL PARK

ROB WRIGHT

2.10 Studio Thirty. 2.40 Ballybay. 3.10 Colonel Colt. 3.40 SMINT (nap). 4.10 Coolvawn Lady. 4.40 Charlie Banker.

Carl Evans: 4.10 Halham Tarn.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

2.10 OSBORNE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,495: 2m 2f 110yd) (12 runners)

1 1033 NORDANSK 33 (CD,F,S) M Madgwick 10-12-0 J Goldstein (3)
2 -506 MACHIAVELLI 15 (CD,G) G L Moore 5-11-6 M Batchelor (5)
3 /1P/ FISIO SANDS 986 (BF,CD,F) J C Poulton 10-11-4 P Hide
4 2060 FORT KNOX 50 (S) R Flower 8-11-0 L Aspell
5 1306 BOLTON FOREST 28 (D,G,S) C Mann 6-11-0 J Magee
6 0545 KHALIDI 81 (F,G,S) D Gandolfo 10-11-0 Sophie Mitchell

2.40 'CERTAIN JUSTICE' CHALLENGE CUP NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

3.10 HEDDY SIMPSON MEMORIAL CHALLENGE TROPHY MAIDEN CHASE

3.40 STREBEL BOILERS AND RADIATORS NH NOVICES HURDLE

4.10 CHARLTON HUNT CHALLENGE CUP HUNTERS CHASE

4.40 GRAND SPLENDOUR HANDICAP HURDLE

6 4001 FILSCOT 25 (F,G) C Morlock 7-11-6 D Gallagher
7 1F2P PIPER'S ROCK 83 (BF,F) Miss E Lavelle 8-11-1 B Clifford
8 3263 WALTER'S DESTINY 12 (D,G) C Mitchell 7-11-0 Sophie Mitchell
9 /004 DJAIS 12 (F,G) J Jenkins 10-10-13 M Batchelor (5)
10 -545 KINGSDOWN TRIX 109 (G,S) R J Smith 5-10-11 J Goldstein (3)
11 -448 TWO TO TANGO 28 (G) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-11 J Tizzard
12 3040 DARING KING 12 (CD,F,S) M Bolton 9-10-7 L Aspell
13 /240 SUPREME TROGLODYTE 34 C Morlock 7-10-6 J R Kavanagh
14 P421 NIGHT THYNE 12 (D,S) M J Roberts 7-10-0 Mr R Fornstad (5)
15 05-P WILTOSKI 113 (B,F) R Ledger 11-10-0 Mrs N Ledger

4-1 Saint Joe, 5-1 Charlie Banker, 6-1 Rosey Boy, Filscot, 8-1 Walter's Destiny, Night Thyne, 10-1 Piper's Rock, Two To Tango, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: I Williams, 4 winners from 6 runners, 66.7%; M Pitman, 3 from 10, 30.0%; R Dickin, 7 from 32, 21.9%; D Gandolfo, 7 from 32, 21.9%; M Usher, 3 from 14, 21.4%; D Williams, 5 from 24, 20.8%; Miss H Knight, 6 from 32, 18.8%; R Head, 4 from 22, 18.2%; M Bolton, 3 from 17, 17.6%; G L Moore, 10 from 60, 16.7%.

JOCKEYS: R Walley, 3 winners from 6 rides, 50.0%; D Gallagher, 15 from 61, 24.6%; P Hide, 23 from 123, 18.7%; M Fitzgerald, 10 from 68, 14.7%; J Goldstein, 3 from 28, 10.7%; Sophie Mitchell, 3 from 29, 10.3%. Only qualifiers.

Blinkered first time

Exeter: 2.00 Dublin River. 2.30 Whistling Rufus, Jevington. 3.00 Spring Marathon, Quiet Moments. 3.30 Colonel Blazer. 4.00 Henry Bruce. **Fontwell Park:** 2.40 Guignol Du Cochet. **Uttoxeter:** 3.20 Emperor's Magic

FOOTBALL

Harvey's cream reap benefits of youth culture

Stephen Wood reports on the success of *The Times* FA Youth Cup

WHEN Everton and Aston Villa next meet in the FA Carling Premiership, the occasion will more than likely produce a fascinating contest of precocious talent, between Francis Jeffers, Everton's 18-year-old striker, and Gareth Barry, the 18-year-old defender at Villa. The pair, Jeffers with his spindly physique but cast-iron eye for goal, and Barry, his temperament and assuredness outstanding, are the most celebrated graduates of each club's youth system.

Indeed, so established are they in their respective first-team squads that, when the clubs face each other tonight in *The Times* FA Youth Cup sixth round, Jeffers and Barry will be supporting their peers from the comfort of the directors' box at Goodison Park. It might be a strange feeling for them, but not one, you can imagine, they would swap. The Youth Cup has provided a stepping-stone for their careers and, if the other Everton and Villa hopefuls look up to them in the stands tonight, it will not be so much literally as metaphorically.

Colin Harvey, the former manager of Everton, has been in charge of Everton's youth set-up for two years. Last season he guided them to the FA Youth Cup, beating Blackburn Rovers in the two-leg final. "Franny has set an example for the other lads to follow," Harvey said. "They feel happy for one of their mates to be doing so well, but it also motivates them that bit more. They know what it takes to make it to the first-team squad and Franny's success has shown it is possible."

Of the two, it is Barry who has progressed slightly farther. Jeffers began the season in the youth team; indeed, his hat-trick against Swindon Town in the fourth round persuaded Walter Smith, the Everton manager, that he was ready for the challenge of first-team football. Jeffers appeared a natural, scoring on his full home debut in the "real thing", a 2-1 victory over Coventry City in the FA Cup fifth round last month.

Barry, however, is a regular in the England under-21 squad and his performances for Villa were rewarded earlier this season with an invitation by Glenn Hoddle, the former England coach, to train with the senior squad. The emergence of Barry came in a Youth Cup tie last season, just after he had arrived from Brighton and Hove Albion, his first club.

Kevin MacDonald, the former Liverpool player who is now a coach to the Villa youth team, said: "Gareth was playing in midfield at the time, but the former youth team coach [Tony McAndrew] decided to change and use him at centre back. Sometimes, the pace in midfield catches up with players as they progress. Gareth's passing ability was still suited to playing at the back, and immediately you could see it click. After a couple more weeks in the youth team, he was called up to the reserves and, by the end of the season, he was training and playing with the first team."

Progression in the Youth Cup is treasured, but the most accurate barometer of the success of a club's youth policy is the number of players that manage to play in the first team. Manchester United's productivity levels have seen them assume a Godfather-like status in this respect. Arsenal have mounted their own challenge, encouraged by the vision and contacts book of Arsène Wenger, the manager. Their youth team, having beaten Crystal Palace in a fifth-round replay, meet York City or West Ham United in the next round.

Everton, nevertheless, can claim to have been the best youth side in the country over the past two seasons. Michael Ball and Danny Cadamarteri have long since made the transition to the senior side, while Richard Dunne, Phil Jevons and Adam Farley, members of their Youth Cup-winning team last season, have tasted the big time this.

"We look at children from the age of nine and the hope is that, one day, you will have a first team made up of home-grown players," Harvey said. Arsenal, the Double-winners last season, have raised the stakes somewhat. They have paid £2 million to Notts County for the services of Jermaine Pennant, a 15-year-old, and Jeremie Aladière was enticed from France's national academy on a seven-year deal believed to be worth £1.3 million.

The latest controversy surrounds their acquisition of Moritz Volz, a 16-year-old from Schalke 04, the German club. Villa, for one, admit that they have been left behind. MacDonald said: "Competition is everything in this game and we have some catching up to do, especially if Arsenal are now looking abroad to find the best players. If that's what it takes, we will do that as well."

PHOTOGRAPHS: STEVE WHITE and MARK THOMPSON



Jeffers, left, of Everton, and Barry, of Aston Villa, have made an impact in the first team after graduating from youth football

THE STATE OF PLAY IN THE YOUTH CUP

QUARTER-FINALS
Arsenal v York City or West Ham United
Millwall or Wimbledon v Coventry City
Queens Park Rangers or Nottingham Forest v Newcastle United or Middlesbrough
Everton v Aston Villa

FIXTURES AND DATES
TODAY: Fifth round replay – West Ham United v York City
Sixth round – Everton v Aston Villa
TOMORROW: Fifth round replay – Nottingham Forest v Queens Park Rangers
MARCH 30: Fifth round – Millwall or Wimbledon
Fifth round replay – Middlesbrough v Newcastle

Carsley beats path to Blackburn

BY STEPHEN WOOD AND GEORGE CAULKIN

LEE CARSLEY, the midfield player, completed a £3.4 million transfer from Derby County to Blackburn Rovers yesterday, swapping a challenge for a place in Europe next season for a battle against relegation from the FA Carling Premiership at the end of this one.

The move is expected to double his salary, but Carsley insisted that money was not a factor in his decision. "Blackburn is a massive club and I think it is in a false position at the moment," he said. "In fact, relegation was not mentioned when I signed and it has not crossed my mind, either.

"People have also mentioned the financial side, but money has never motivated me one bit. I come from Sheldon, a poor area in Birmingham, and I would be happy going back to live there at any time. At the end of the day, the manager at Blackburn has told me that he can make me a better player and I can't ask for any more than that."

Blackburn persuaded Carsley to join them despite some belated interest from Aston Villa and Everton and it takes the spending of Brian Kidd, the manager, to more than £18 million in less than four months. However, he hinted that it might be the last signing for a while.

"I identified my targets early on and I'm glad I've been successful," Kidd said. "None has been a panic buy."

Carsley, 25, whose contract takes him through to the summer of 2003, follows Ashley Ward, Keith Gillespie, Matt Jansen and Jason McAteer as Kidd's big signings since he became the Blackburn manager after the departure of Roy Hodgson. He is expected to make his debut against Middlesbrough on April 3.

Newcastle United have emerged as the favourites to sign Dean Richards, the England Under-21 defender, when his contract with Wolverhampton Wanderers expires this summer. Ruud Gullit, the Newcastle manager, has grown disenchanted with the defensive inconsistencies of his side and the purchase of a dominant centre half has become his priority. Richards, 24, has the potential to fit that mould, although inconsistent form and fitness have seen his valuation tumble from the £5 million price that Wolves once placed on his shoulders. However, he has played a significant role in his team's push for a promotion place in the Nationwide League first division this season.

Peter Reid has begun the formidable task of transforming Sunderland into an FA Carling Premiership force by signing Carsten Fredgaard, the Denmark Under-21 international. Reid will pay Lyngby £1.8 million for the player, who, providing that he negotiates a medical successfully, will agree a four-year contract at the Stadium of Light. Fredgaard will take no part in the last eight games of his new side's promotion campaign, however. The attacking midfield player, 22, will remain with Lyngby until the Danish season ends in three months.

Pontus Kaamark, the Sweden defender, will leave Leicester City when his contract expires at the end of June and return to AIK Stockholm. Kaamark's wife and daughter live in Sweden.



Carsley: made £3.4m move from Derby

IN BRIEF

Rangers win race for Dutch forward

■ RANGERS yesterday won the race to sign Michael Mols, the Holland forward, who agreed a four-year contract with the leaders of the Scottish Premier League ahead of Ajax, Marseilles and Sheffield Wednesday.

A fee has yet to be agreed with FC Utrecht, Mols's club, but it is expected to be about £4 million. Mols, 28, will join Rangers at the end of the season. Mols said that Rangers' Dutch connections — the coach, Dick Advocaat, and the players, Arthur Numan and Giovanni van Bronckhorst — and the prospect of European football took him to Ibrox.

■ Sepp Blatter, the president of Fifa, is taking legal action against the author of a British book that claims his election as president last summer was rigged, Fifa announced yesterday. The allegations appear in *How They Stole The Game*, by David Yallop, an English author, which Blatter is trying to stop being published. Blatter has had the book banned in Switzerland, but it has been published in Germany and Holland.

■ Ireland expect to hear today whether their European championship qualifying match against Macedonia will go ahead in Skopje on Saturday. The game is under threat from the possibility of Nato air strikes on Serbian military installations. Uefa is considering postponing it or moving it to a neutral venue.

■ Emile Heskey, the Leicester City striker, has pulled out of the England Under-21 squad for the European championship qualifying match against Poland on Friday with a recurrence of a back problem. The game, at Southampton, looks likely to be a sell-out.

■ Fifa has given its approval to the squad selected by England for the world youth championships in Nigeria. England were warned by Sepp Blatter, the Fifa president, that they faced suspension if they sent a below-strength party. But Chris Ramsey, the England youth coach, said that the governing body had "no problem" with the squad, which will be announced this week.

Kirsten sets run record in victory

WELLINGTON (final day of five): South Africa beat New Zealand by eight wickets

SOUTH AFRICA gained a resounding victory in the third Test against New Zealand at the Basin Reserve yesterday to win the series 1-0. Resuming at 217 for seven, still 59 runs in arrears, the home side scored 74 more runs in 68 minutes before being dismissed for 291 to leave South Africa a target of 16 runs for victory.

Dion Nash and Simon Doull added 48 for the ninth wicket to avoid an innings defeat but the touring side were led safely to their target by Gary Kirsten, after Herschelle Gibbs had been run out for a duck and Jacques Kallis had been bowled by Daniel Vettori for four.

When Kirsten reached eight, he became his country's leading run-scorer in all Tests. He began the second innings with 3,464 runs and finished with 3,476, five runs ahead of Bruce Mitchell, who played 42 Tests for South Africa between 1929 and 1949. This was Kirsten's 53rd Test match. Steve Elworthy, with four wickets in each innings, was named man of the match.

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 222 (G R Stead 68, C Z Harris 68, S M Pollock 5 for 33, S Elworthy 4-56).

Second innings
B A Young c Boucher b Pollock 2
M J Horne lbw b Elworthy 27
R G Twose c Pollock b Elworthy 5
N J Astle b Elworthy 62
G R Stead lbw b Elworthy 33
C Z Harris b Adams 41
A C Parore c Rhodes b Adams 19
D J Nash c Boucher b Adams 27
D L Vettori b Pollock 16
S B Doull not out 38
S O'Connor c Rhodes b Adams 2
Extras (b 9, lb 7, nb 3) 19
Total 291

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-35, 3-35, 4-100, 5-152, 6-196, 7-199, 8-233, 9-281.

BOWLING: Pollock 25-8-54-2; Elworthy 28-5-93-4; Kallis 19-7-50-0; Klusener 11-7-15-0; Adams 22.3-6-63-4

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 498-8 dec (D J Cullinan 152, H H Gibbs 120, W J Cronje 72; D L Vettori 4-153)

Second innings
G Kirsten not out 12
H H Gibbs run out 0
J H Kallis b Vettori 4
D J Cullinan not out 0
Total (for 2 wkts) 16

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-14

BOWLING: O'Connor 4.1-0-9-0; Vettori 4-0-7-1

Umpires: D B Cowie (New Zealand) and S Venkataraghavan (India)

CRICKET

Gough receives England's player-of-the-year award

BY JOHN STERN

DARREN GOUGH'S elevation over the past 12 months from the ranks of the England team to its spiritual helm was confirmed again yesterday when he was named Cornhill England Player of the Year, for which he received an engraved glass trophy and a cheque for £10,000.

His consistent excellence with the new ball against South Africa last summer and in the winter against Australia, where he took a Test hat-trick, made Gough a straightforward choice for the award's selection panel, which included David Lloyd, the England coach.

Since returning from Australia a month ago, Gough has had a complete break from cricket, but is now back on the international cricketing carousel with all that that entails.

His appearance last week on the Channel 4 television show, *TFI Friday*, on which he brandished the World Cup and was asked to judge the price of various bottles of champagne, indicates that Gough has been placed at the forefront of English cricket's hard sell, at present in progress before the World Cup in May and June.

"I know I have a lot on my shoulders, but I prefer it that way because it's a challenge," Gough said. "It is nice to hear people saying I'm a world-class fast bowler, but I don't want to do it just for a year. I want to do it consistently like Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh have over a number of years."

Gough travels to Lahore on Sunday with the rest of England's 15-man World Cup squad for practice, before moving on to Sharjah for a triangular one-day tournament involving India and Pakistan. Although the conditions there will bear no relation to this country in May, Gough believes there is value in preparing there. "We have a chance to work out a game-plan for the World Cup," he said. "It is also a chance to see India and Pakistan, who I haven't played much against."

□ Western Australia beat Queensland by an innings and 31 runs to secure back-to-back Sheffield Shield titles. Conceding Western Australia a first-innings lead of 160 after Tom Moody declared at 425 for nine on Sunday, Queensland crumbled and lost their last eight wickets for just 52 runs yesterday. Only the openers, Jimmy Maher (58) and Matt Hayden (25), got past 20.

SIMON BROOKE-WEBB



Dazzling: Gough displays his Cornhill trophy yesterday

Ganguly destroys Sri Lanka

SAURAV GANGULY scored an unbeaten 130 and then took four wickets for 21 as India defeated Sri Lanka by 80 runs in Nagpur to hand the World Cup holders the fourteenth defeat in their past 16 one-day games.

Rahul Dravid scored 116 during a record second-wicket stand of 236 with Ganguly as India piled up 287 for four from their 50 overs. The Sri Lankans were then all out for 207 in just 38 overs after Ajit Agarkar, the pace bowler, ripped through the top order with three for 14 from six overs on his return to international cricket after a four-month absence through injury. The irrepressible Ganguly then polished off the Sri Lanka tail.

Sri Lanka, who lost to Pakistan by nine runs in the opening match of the three-nation series on Friday, must win both their return matches to retain any hope of making the final on April 4.

Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lanka captain, whose team defend their World Cup title in England this summer, was confident of better days ahead. "We are capable of coming back," he said. "One victory should help us to turn the corner and we are working hard towards that."

Ajay Jadeja struggled to make 11 off 22 balls as India scored 51 for one in their first 14 overs. Once he had gone, however, Ganguly combined with Dravid to flay a depleted Sri Lanka attack that was without Muttiah Muralitharan and Sanath Jayasuriya, the first-choice spin bowlers.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Sunday: Greater London Leopards 71 Milton Keynes Lions 70; Chester Jets 86 Edinburgh Rocks 97; London Towers 94 Thames Valley Tigers 90.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Sunday: Boston 92 Chicago 95 (OT); Toronto 85 New York 81 (OT); Minnesota 85 La Clippers 100; Detroit 104 Utah 101 (OT); Cleveland 88 New Jersey 85; Milwaukee 87 Charlotte 94; Denver 102 Seattle 98; Portland 91 Philadelphia 75; Orlando 104 La Lakers 115.

BOWLS

CAPE TOWN: Spar Atlantic Rim Games: Third round: Pairs: Group A: United States bt Jersey (L Murphy and K Hormann) 29-15; South Africa t/w Israel 16-16, Wales (A Sutherland and R Jones) bt Zimbabwe 17-14, Ireland (B Cameron and P Nolan) bt Holland 44-6. Group B: Guernsey (P Harding and S Cave) bt Argentina 24-18; England (K Hawes and M Price) bt Swaziland 19-13, Scotland (M Letham and J Lindores) bt Spain 35-11; Canada bt Namibia 23-22. Triples: Group A: USA bt Jersey (L Le Long, C Syvret, S Dingle) 20-13; South Africa bt Israel 31-2; Zimbabwe bt Wales (K Pearce, G Miles, B Morgan) 20-13; Ireland (D McNally, D Kane, M Johnston) bt Holland 42-6. Group B: Argentina bt Guernsey (J Martel, J Rose, J Finigan) 21-12; Swaziland bt England (J Baker, C Popple, N Shaw) 24-8; Scotland (J Moran, B Forsyth, S Gourlay) bt Spain 19-17; Namibia bt Canada 24-10. Fourth round: Pairs: Group A: Wales bt Israel 22-14; Jersey bt Holland 34-9; United States bt Ireland 20-19; South Africa bt Zimbabwe 24-19. Group B: Scotland bt Swaziland 22-17, Guernsey bt Canada 24-18; Namibia bt Argentina 32-7; England bt Spain 18-17. Triples: Group A: Wales bt Israel 20-10; Jersey bt Holland 16-6; Ireland bt USA 21-5; South Africa bt Zimbabwe 40-6. Group B: Scotland bt Swaziland 17-12; Guernsey bt Canada 15-10; Argentina bt Namibia 20-15, England bt Spain 24-14.

CRICKET

Pepsi Cup
Pakistan v Sri Lanka

NAGPUR (Sri Lanka won toss): India beat Sri Lanka by 80 runs

INDIA
S C Ganguly not out 130
A D Jadeja c & b Vaas 11
R Dravid c Botheju b Vaas 116
*M Azharuddin c Chandana b Wickramasinghe 3
V G Kambli c Jayawardene b Vaas 2
A B Agarkar not out 0
Extras (b 1, lb 5, w 12, nb 7) 25
Total (4 wkts, 50 overs) 287

† N R Mongia, L R Shukla, A Kumble, N Chopra, J Srinath did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-33, 2-269, 3-276, 4-278

BOWLING: Vaas 10-0-58-3, Wickramasinghe 10-0-38-1, Boteju 8-1-56-0; Kalpage 9-0-44-0; de Silva 2-0-18-0; Chandana 7-0-44-0; Arnold 4-0-27-0.

SRI LANKA
A Gunawardene lbw b Chopra 39
R P Arnold c Kambli b Agarkar 1
D P M Jayawardene c Kumble b Agarkar 0
P A de Silva b Agarkar 12
† H P Tillakaratne st Mongia b Chopra 44
*A Ranatunga lbw b Ganguly 46
U D U Chandana b Kumble 38
R S Kalpage st Mongia b Ganguly 3
H Boteju b Ganguly 2
W P U J C Vaas c Shukla b Ganguly 0
G P Wickramasinghe not out 2
Extras (b 4, lb 4, w 2, nb 10) 20
Total (38 overs) 207

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-15, 3-41, 4-71, 5-152, 6-176, 7-184, 8-201, 9-205

BOWLING: Srinath 7-0-42-0; Agarkar 6-0-14-3; Kumble 7-0-41-1; Shukla 4-0-32-0; Chopra 10-0-49-2; Ganguly 4-0-21-4.

Umpires: K S Giridharan and V Gupta

SHEFFIELD SHIELD FINAL: Final day of four: Brisbane: Queensland 265 (A Symonds 113) and 129 (J Maher 58): Western Australia 425-9 dec. (S Katich 115, D R Martyn 85, B P Julian 84). Western Australia beat Queensland by an innings and 31 runs.

FOOTBALL

ARGENTINE LEAGUE: Argentinos Juniors 0 Boca Juniors 3; River Plate 1 Estudiantes de La Plata 0; Racing Club 0 Independiente 2; Platense 1 Rosario Central 1; Belgrano 1 Union 0; Colon 2 Talleres 0; Velez Sarsfield 1 San Lorenzo 1, Newell's Old Boys 3 Lanus 2; Huracan 1 Ferro Carril Oeste 0.

BRAZILIAN LEAGUE: Sao Paulo: Portuguesa 1 Santos 2; Sao Paulo 5 Portuguesa Santista 1; Palmeiras 2 Guarani 1; Mogi Mirim 2 Matonense 4; Corinthians 3 Rio Branco 0; Barbarense 1 Internacional Limeira 1. Rio de Janeiro: Fluminense 0 Vasco da Gama 3; Flamengo 3 Itaperuna 0; Americano 3 Botafogo 1, Madureira 1 Olaria 2; Friburgense 2 Bangu 2.

GOLF

ORLANDO, Florida: Bay Hill Invitational: Leading final scores (United States unless stated): 274: T Herron 66, 69, 67, 72; T Lehman 69, 68, 66, 71 (Herron won play-off at second extra hole). 275: D Love III 69, 66, 67, 73. 276: R Damron 70, 71, 68, 67. 280: C Parry (Aus) 72, 67, 72, 69; S Hoch 71, 70, 70, 69; D Pride 68, 71, 70, 71, P Mickelson 74, 67, 68, 71; R Estes 70, 70, 68, 72; B Chamblee 70, 69, 67, 74. 281: S Pate 69, 69, 71, 72; V Singh (Fiji) 69, 70, 70, 72. 282: K Triplett 70, 71, 70, 71; R Allenby (Aus) 72, 66, 71, 73; P Stewart 75, 65, 68, 74. 283: D Frost (SA) 75, 68, 75, 65; H Sutton 74, 69, 72, 68; J Leonard 69, 71, 69, 74. 284: A Magee 69, 67, 77, 71; F Lickliter 71, 70, 72, 71; C Pavin 73, 69, 69, 73; D Toms 71, 71, 68, 74. British placings: 291: L Westwood 71, 68, 73, 79; C Montgomerie 71, 69, 72, 79. 295: I Woosnam 73, 70, 73, 79.

PHOENIX, Arizona: LPGA Standard Register PING: Leading final scores (United States unless stated): 274: K Webb (Aus) 68, 68, 69, 69. 278: L Kane (Can) 66, 70, 71, 71. 280: J Moodie (GB) 73, 73, 69, 65; J Geddes 75, 69, 71, 65. 281: W Ward 70, 71, 68, 72. 282: E Dahllof (Swe) 75, 70, 69, 68; K Robbins 72, 71, 71, 68; J Inkster 68, 75, 70, 69. 283: L Lindley 72, 69, 72, 70; P Rizzo 73, 70, 69, 71; K Albers 71, 73, 66, 73. 284: N Lopez 72, 73, 70, 69; C Matthew (GB) 74, 69, 70, 71; A Sorenstam (Swe) 72, 69, 71, 72. 285: J McGill 72, 73, 72, 68; D Pepper 73, 71, 72, 69; H Alfredsson (Swe) 69, 69, 74, 73; L Davies (GB) 68, 72, 72, 73; T Barrett 69, 70, 70, 76. 286: K Saiki 70, 70, 72, 74. 287: D Barnard (GB) 73, 70, 75, 69; M Redman 73, 72, 72, 70; T Hanson 66, 69, 81, 71; M Mallon 72, 73, 71, 71; G Park 73, 72, 72, 70; H Stacy 72, 70, 73, 72; C Johnston-Forbes 67, 76, 70, 74; M Nause 68, 73, 70, 76.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Calgary 2 NY Islanders 1; Chicago 4 Colorado 3; NY Rangers 2 Pittsburgh 2; Philadelphia 5 Detroit 4; Washington 1 Boston 4; Anaheim 2 Florida 5; Dallas 3 Carolina 2 (OT); Phoenix 4 Los Angeles 1.

MOTOR RALLYING

PORTO: Rally of Portugal: Leading positions (after nine stages): 1, C McRae (GB) 1hr 49min 45sec; 2, R Burns (GB) at 49.2sec; 3, C Sainz (Sp) 50.1; 4, D Auriol (Fr) 54.5; 5, M Gronholm (Fin) 1:13.5; 6, J Kankkunen (Fin) 1:40.6; 7, H Rovanpera (Fin) 1:55.9; 8, Piero Liatti (It) 1:58.4; 9, T Makinen (Fin) 2:01.1; 10, B Thiry (Bel) 2:32.5.

TENNIS

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida: Lipton Championships: Men: Third round: F Clavet (Sp) bt K Carlsen (Den) 6-2, 6-4; C Moya (Sp) bt J Stoltenberg (Austria) 6-7, 6-1, 7-5, T Enqvist (Swe) bt F Mantilla (Sp) 4-6, 6-3, 7-6; G Rusedski (GB) bt H Dreekman (Ger) 6-3, 6-4; A Corretja (Sp) bt R Delgado (Para) 6-4, 1-6, 6-4; S Grosjean (Fr) bt J Krostak (Slovakia) 6-2, 6-4; V Spadea (US) bt F Santoro (Fr) 6-3, 6-2; M Safin (Russ) bt M Philippoussis (Aus) 7-6, 7-6; N Kiefer (Ger) bt P Rafter (Aus) 7-6, 6-4, J Golmard (Fr) bt T Henman (GB) 6-4, 7-6; K Kucera (Slovakia) bt A Pavel (Rom) 6-3, 7-5; P Sampras (US) bt J Bjorkman (Swe) 7-5, 6-3. Women: Third round: M Seles (US) bt C Martinez (Sp) 6-2, 6-1; N Zvereva (Belarus) bt N Tauziat (Fr) 6-3, 6-2; M Hingis (Switz) bt A Frazier (US) 6-1, 6-1; S Graf (Ger) bt H Nagyova (Slovakia) 6-1, 6-3; E Likhotseva (Russ) bt A Mauresmo (Fr) 4-6, 7-6, 6-1; M Weingartner (Ger) bt C Rubin (US) 2-6, 7-5, 6-4; P Schnyder (Switz) bt M Lucic (Cro) 6-3, 6-4; A Coetzer (SA) bt M Drake (Can) 6-4, 6-4; A Kournikova (Russ) bt J Halard-Decugis (Fr) 6-4, 7-6; B Schett (Austria) bt A Kremer (Lux) 6-4, 6-2.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Nationwide League
First division
Barnsley v Bristol City (7.45)
Port Vale v Grimsby (7.45)

Second division
Bristol Rovers v Wycombe (7.45)
Luton v Reading (7.45)

Third division
Darlington v Carlisle (7.45)
Scunthorpe v Swansea

Nationwide Conference
Hereford v Woking (7.45)
Leek v Rushden and Diamonds (7.45)
Yeovil v Southport (7.45)

The Auto Windscreens Shield
Northern area final, second leg
Wrexham (0) v Wigan (2) (7.45)

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division, King's Lynn v Bath City; Tamworth v Rothwell. Southern division: Ashford v Havant and Waterlooville, Brackley Town v Raunds T; Cirencester Town v Erith and Belvedere, Newport IoW v Tonbridge Angels. Midland division: Bloxwich Town v Redditch; Moor Green v Solihull Boro, Shepshed Dynamo v Weston-super-Mare. League Cup: Semi-final, first leg: Dorchester v Cambridge City

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Accrington Stanley v Emley; Bishop Auckland v Blyth Spartans; Chorley v Guiseley; Lancaster v Colwyn Bay; Whitby v Bamber Bridge. First division: Flixton v Albion; Harrogate Town v Eastwood Town, Netherfield Kendal v Burscough. President's Cup: Semi-final, first leg: Droylsden v Stalybridge. Semi-final second leg: Runcorn v Leigh RMI.

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylesbury v Enfield, Sutton United v Billericay. First division: Leatherhead v Bognor Regis; Leyton Pennant v Wembley; Romford v Staines; Wealdstone v Oxford City; Worthing v Barton Rovers; Yeading v Chertsey. Second division: Barking v Wivenhoe; Bedford T v Hertford; Hungerford v Chalfont St Peter; Met Police v Northwood. Third division: Camberley Town v Wingate and Finchley, Cheshunt v Ford United; Clapton v Ware; Dorking v East Thurrock; Epsom and Ewell v Egham; Tilbury v Kingsbury.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Queens Park Rangers v Oxford (2.0); Tottenham v Gillingham; West Ham v Crystal Palace (2.0); Bournemouth v Cambridge (2.0).

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Liverpool v Sunderland (7.0). First division: Burnley v Middlesbrough (7.15); Manchester City v Coventry (7.0). Second division: Notts County v Newcastle (7.0).

LEAGUE OF WALES: Afan Lido v Rhayader Town, Connah's Quay v Caernarfon; Barry v Cwmbran.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ballymena v Cliftonville; Glentoran v Coleraine; Newry v Glenavon; Omagh v Linfield; Portadown v Crusaders. First division: Ards v Dungannon Swifts; Ballyclare v Carrick; Distillery v Bangor; Larne v Limavady.

RUGBY UNION

WELSH LEAGUE: Premier division: Pontypridd v Bridgend (7.15). First division: Cross Keys v Dunvant (7.0); Maesteg v South Wales Police (7.0); Tredegar v Pontypool (7.0); Treorchy v Blackwood (7.0).

OTHER SPORT

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters (in Co Kildare).

SQUASH: British Open (in Birmingham).

POOLS FORECAST

Saturday, March 27
Coupon No, fix, forecast

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP
1 England v Poland 1
2 N Ireland v Germany 2
3 Scotland v Bosnia 1

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION
4 *Bury v Sunderland 2
5 *Grimsby v Wolves 2
6 *Ipswich v Stockport 1
7 *Port Vale v Watford X

SECOND DIVISION
8 Bourn'm'th v Colchester 1
9 Bristol R v Notts County X
10 Chest'field v Blackpool 1
11 Luton v Gillingham 2
12 Millwall v Wrexham 1
13 Preston v North'pton 1
14 Reading v Man City X
15 *Walsall v Fulham 2
16 Wigan A v Stoke X
17 Wycombe v Oldham 2

THIRD DIVISION
18 Brighton v Barnet X
19 Cardiff v Carlisle 1
20 Chester v Plymouth 2
21 Rot'ham v Scunthorpe 2
22 Torquay v Hartlepool 1

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE
23 Barrow v Kid'minster X
24 Colwyn Bay v Accrington 2

UNIBOND LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION
25 †Emley v Winsford V
26 Guiseley v Marine 1
27 Hyde v Bamber Br 2
28 Lancaster v Gainsboro X
29 Leigh v Gateshead 2
30 Runcorn v Chorley 1
31 Whitby v Stalybridge 2

DR MARTENS LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION
32 *Boston v Tamworth 1
33 Crawley v Merthyr T 1
34 Gloucester v Hastings 1
35 Grantham v Dorchester 1
36 Halesowen v Bath X
37 King's Lynn v Burton A 1
38 Nuneaton v Ilkeston 1
39 Salisbury v Rothwell T 1
40 Weymouth v Atherstone 1

RYMAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION
41 Aldershot v Slough X
42 B'ngstoke v Walton & H 1
43 Bishops S v Hampton 1
44 Dulwich v Heybridge X
45 Enfield v Carshalton 1
46 Gravesend v Sutton U 2
47 Harrow v Boreham W X
48 Hendon v Billericay 1
49 *St Albans v Bromley 1

*Pools Panel to adjudicate
† void match

TREBLE CHANCE (home teams): Bristol Rovers, Reading, Wigan, Brighton, Barrow, Lancaster, Halesowen, Aldershot, Dulwich, Harrow

BEST DRAWS: Bristol Rovers, Reading, Brighton, Barrow, Lancaster.

AWAYS: Germany, Gillingham, Oldham, Plymouth, Bamber Bridge.

HOMES: England, Scotland, Bournemouth, Chesterfield, Preston, Cardiff, Runcorn, Crawley, King's Lynn.

FIXED ODDS: Homes: England, Bournemouth, Chesterfield, Preston, Cardiff. Aways: Germany, Gillingham, Plymouth. Draws: Bristol Rovers, Reading, Brighton.

Vince Wright

RUGBY UNION

European places may be up for grabs

By Mark Souster

THE Rugby Football Union (RFU) will nominate six teams to represent England in Europe next season, even if the leading English clubs continue their boycott of the competition. That is the stark scenario that the board of English First Division Rugby (EFDR) will have to contemplate today when it meets in London.

For all its posturing over the past 15 months, it seems inevitable that EFDR will agree to re-enter the European Cup, having achieved little or nothing by its absence other than adding to its own financial problems. Certainly the overhaul that it sought to the structure and control of the tournament has not happened.

The fact is that EFDR cannot afford to remain on the outside any longer. ERC estimates that a competition that includes England is worth between £25 million and £30 million a year, of which it is proposed that the English and French would share 54 per cent of the revenue. That equates roughly, after running costs, to about £750,000 per club. If EFDR rejects the opportunity to go back, then the RFU, which has given assurances to ERC that there will be English representation next season, intends to write to each first division club individually to ask them to reconsider.

If they continue to hold off, then Twickenham, if necessary, will put forward teams from the Allied Dunbar Premiership second division. One senior official said: "That would only happen in extreme circumstances. I am confident we — the RFU — will negotiate our way back in [to Europe] with EFDR."

ERDR had hoped to force changes in Europe, but has been left high and dry by France. England thought that they had an agreement with the French to set up an alternative competition backed by a brewery, a merchant bank and a leading broadcaster.

Now it is understood that Bernard Lapasset, the president of the FFR, has set out France's final position. It is a future within ERC.

The format for next season apparently has been agreed by the French, together with Wales, Ireland and Scotland. It allows next year for a 24-strong cup, with six teams each from France and England, five from Wales, including Cardiff and Swansea, three Irish, and two each from Scotland and Italy. In Wales, Cardiff and Swansea will return to the union fold without alienating clubs that stayed loyal to the Welsh Rugby Union.

The year after next, the tournament would be reduced to 20 participants — five each from England and France and two each from Wales, Scotland, Ireland and Italy. Under a meritocracy arrangement, the two remaining places would go to clubs from the countries that contest the final next year. One other suggestion would be to have 16 guaranteed places, with the remaining four allocated according to the semi-final line-up.

The RFU official indicated that England still hoped to negotiate changes to ERC once they had been readmitted. While accepting ERC control, they would still like to see a sub-committee set up to to deal with merchandising and finance.

Howard Thomas, the acting chief executive of EFDR, said all efforts were directed towards this goal. "But it is certainly not the case of us going back at any cost," he said. "We have principles. I cannot see clubs going into Europe without the right structure."



HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Morgan Long, left, of Cranbrook, is stopped in his tracks during the 34-0 win over Saffron Walden at the Shell UK National Schools Sevens on Wimbledon Common playing-fields yesterday. Cranbrook won all their four matches in group A of the Festival tournament to go forward to the knockout stage for the 24 group winners (Michael Aylwin writes). The tournament, for schools that play only one term of rugby, is the largest of the six, featuring 120 schools. It concludes at Rosslyn Park today. The first knockout round saw a rematch of the 1998 final between Cheltenham College and Trent College, Trent gaining revenge with a 26-5 victory. Cheltenham took an early lead but Ben Wilson showed power and pace to score a brace of tries and give Trent the advantage. Further Trent scores followed from Adam Davis and Will Rolt. A cliffhanger was then conducted in the gathering gloom between St Edward's, Oxford, and Eastbourne. A last-minute St Edward's try took the game into sudden death, where Luke Ritchie scored to ensure the Oxford school's continued participation today.

France look forward with a shrug

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

THE Gallic shrug has become an accepted gesture worldwide, and that is what French rugby is doing now. The defence of the Five Nations Championship has gone, shredded by Wales, England and a lengthy casualty list, and the focus is on the World Cup. After all, the French will argue, much the same happened in 1995 and they came within centimetres of reaching the World Cup final in South Africa.

Four years ago, France lost by 21 points at Twickenham and were then beaten at home by Scotland. The same could happen on April 10, if Scotland's resurgence is sustained. France have already been beaten at the Stade de France by Wales and have not lost both home games in the championship for 42 years.

Yet French observers believe that there are few viable alternatives to the players in whom Jean-Claude Skrela and Pierre Villepreux, the coaches, have placed their faith. Certainly, there is unlikely to be any night of the long knives between now and April 10.

France's problems at Twickenham seemed to be in their attitude, with only a handful of players appearing genuinely interested in winning the match, the two bottle-blonds — Thomas Castaignède and Christophe Dominici — among them. It was Castaignède, the fly half, who had argued all last week that if the grand slam had been blown away by Wales, the championship was still a prize worth winning. However, few of his colleagues shared his enthusiasm.



Gatland: not despondent

It is ironic that France's one success of the championship so far, their 10-9 win in Dublin, should have been the match by which Ireland set so much store. Though they have still to play Italy, Ireland's tournament is over in a welter of disappointment, the high hopes engendered by Ulster's success in the European Cup dissipated. The pack has proved surprisingly fallible and the back division has looked limited, as always seemed likely.

"We have developed as a team," Warren Gatland, the coach, said. Gatland has tried to nurture a tight-knit group and will enjoy working with them on the four-match tour of Australia this summer.

His hopes have been raised, too, by the play at A and under-21 level of a new generation of backs: Shane Horgan in the centre, Gordon Darcy at full back and Jeremy Staunton, the fly half who put England Under-21 to the sword. Some of these youngsters will find their way to Australia and could even win promotion to the World Cup squad.

"We have created chances which we haven't taken," Gatland said. "Our fitness has improved and defensively we are better, but it's hard to teach players vision and decision-making skills. I don't think there is anything between us, Wales, France and Scotland, and the gap with the southern hemisphere has closed."

BOXING

King may prevent world title rematch

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

THE optimism of Don King yesterday about the rematch between Lennox Lewis and Evander Holyfield for the undisputed world heavyweight championship appears to be premature. While the American promoter has the signatures of Lewis and Holyfield for the return bout and is looking forward to cashing in again in September on the biggest event in boxing, it is by no means certain that the bout will be staged this year at all.

There could be too many obstacles to overcome in the next six months, the main one being King himself. Panos Eliades, the head of Panix, the London promotion company behind Lewis, said yesterday that HBO, the American cable television company that supported the recent contest in New York, does not want King to promote the next contest between the two heavyweights.

"The fight is far from done," Eliades said. "Never mind the question of the referee and judges, which will have to be sorted out, there are too many other problems.

"Yesterday King phoned me saying that, as he had got Holyfield to sign and had Lennox's signature, which we had given when the contract for the first fight was signed, let's get it on in September. But HBO don't want King, so unless HBO or King backs down, we can't get the fight on. There is no way that HBO will let any other television company stage the fight. We are hoping that Holyfield will persuade King to step aside."

However, Lou Di Bella, the vice-president of Time Warner Sport, said last night that it was not HBO that did not want to work with King, but Lewis. HBO wants merely to be sure that King meets certain criteria and also that the choice of judges is not left to organisations and would be such as to ensure a fair result.

Di Bella said: "Panos is putting the onus on us, but I should think it is Lennox who does not want to get into a room with King. September does not suit us. We have a commitment to Oscar De La Hoya."

RUGBY LEAGUE

Players get in touch with their feelings

By Christopher Irvine

FORGET three lions or the English red rose as symbols of national pride. The Rugby Football League (RFL) says it in three little words — "love this game" — scrawled under its redesigned logo.

Either rugby league is going soft, or schmaltz rules. The slogan borrows heavily from the National Rugby League in Australia, which uses "I love my footy" in its publicity material.

For years, league has described itself, unofficially, as the "greatest game". Now all that passion has been harnessed in a logo and slogan that Neil Tunnicliffe, the RFL chief executive, said "will become the means by which you recognise rugby league, as the red rose symbolises the Rugby Football Union".

Players will carry their



hearts on their sleeves, in the form of the logo, while knocking lumps out of one another in the game they love.

Sex appeal, inevitably, has had a hand. Rugby league crowds are 35 per cent female. "Tremendous athletes, such as Adrian Morley, Sean Long, Simon Haughton, Paul Sculthorpe and Kris Radlinski, also happen to be good-looking fellows," Tunnicliffe said. "The women who come to rugby league love them, not only because they can play, but because they're down-to-earth, approachable and sexy."

In terms of falling in and out of love with the game, Andy Gregory is a somewhat hopeless case. He announced after his Salford Reds side were beaten by Wakefield Trinity on Sunday that he was considering his future as coach, because of abusive calls to his family. By yesterday, he was defiant after talks with John Wilkinson, the Salford chairman, who has persuaded him against resigning before. "I've sat down with those I care about and I'm not going to quit," Gregory said.

NATIONAL SCHOOLS SEVENS RESULTS

GROUP A: Bedford 58 Saffron Walden 0; Cranbrook 12 Stowe 5; Bedford 24 Stowe 14; Saffron Walden 7 Downside 33; Saffron Walden 0 Cranbrook 34; Bedford 7 Downside 33; Bedford 7 Cranbrook 33; Downside 45 Stowe 5; Saffron Walden 0 Stowe 37; Downside 12 Cranbrook 22. **Group winners:** Cranbrook.

GROUP B: Churchers 7 St Paul's 29; Marlborough 22 Bryanston 24; Churchers 7 Bryanston 52; St Paul's 21 St John's, Leatherhead 40; St Paul's 7 Marlborough 10; Churchers 14 St John's, Leatherhead 17; Churchers 0 Marlborough 31; St John's, Leatherhead 19 Bryanston 24; St Paul's 28 Bryanston 38; St John's, Leatherhead 12 Marlborough 17. **Group winners:** Bryanston.

GROUP C: King's, Taunton 42 Hinchingbrooke 5; Beths 0 Trent 43; King's Taunton 12 Trent 48; Hinchingbrooke 0 Haileybury 52; Hinchingbrooke 5 Beths 31; King's, Taunton 14 Haileybury 34; King's Taunton 12 Beths 19; Haileybury 7 Trent 22; Hinchingbrooke 7 Trent 35, Haileybury 24 Beths 5. **Group winners:** Trent.

GROUP D: Dulwich 21 Monmouth 26; Sharnbrook 0 Cheltenham 54; Dulwich 20 Cheltenham 24, Monmouth 31 Skinners 12; Monmouth 64 Sharnbrook 0; Dulwich 28 Skinners 12; Dulwich 32 Sharnbrook 10; Skinners 0 Cheltenham 40; Monmouth 12 Cheltenham 27; Skinners 43 Sharnbrook 10. **Group winners:** Cheltenham.

GROUP E: Abingdon 24 Ewell Castle 5; Prior Park 24 Clayesmore 12; Abingdon 38 Clayesmore 7; Ewell Castle 19 Ursuline 12; Ewell Castle 10 Prior Park 35; Abingdon 36 Ursuline 0, Abingdon 0 Prior Park 26; Ursuline 7 Clayesmore 52; Ewell Castle 14 Clayesmore 26, Ursuline 7 Prior Park 52. **Group winners:** Prior Park.

GROUP F: Canford 14 Kingswood 17; Uppingham 24 Denstone 0; Canford 17 Denstone 27; Kingswood 12 King's, Canterbury 19; Kingswood 0 Uppingham 29; Canford 15 King's, Canterbury 19, Canford 5 Uppingham 44, King's, Canterbury 5 Denstone 50; Kingswood 41 Denstone 10; King's, Canterbury 0 Uppingham 24. **Group winners:** Uppingham

GROUP G: Queen's College, Taunton 7 Bethany 33, Kent College 14 Portsmouth GS 28; Queen's College, Taunton 7 Portsmouth GS 35; Bethany 12 Dean Close 19; Bethany 0 Kent College 31; Queen's College, Taunton 19 Dean Close 50; Queen's College, Taunton 14 Kent College 45, Dean Close 21 Portsmouth GS 19; Bethany 5 Portsmouth GS 29; Dean Close 21 Kent College 7. **Group winners:** Dean Close.

GROUP H: Giggleswick 19 Haberdashers' Aske's 14; Caterham 15 Malvern 0, Giggleswick 39 Malvern 5, Haberdashers' Aske's 24 Rugby 14, Haberdashers' Aske's 29 Caterham 14; Giggleswick 24 Rugby 12; Giggleswick 12 Caterham 7; Rugby 38 Malvern 12; Haberdashers' Aske's 31 Malvern 0; Rugby 17 Caterham 22. **Group winners:** Giggleswick.

GROUP I: Cranleigh 26 Corfe Hills 0; St Peter's, Glos 21 St George's College, Weybridge 12; Cranleigh 5 St George's College, Weybridge 0; Corfe Hills 7 Verulam 31; Corfe Hills 12 St Peter's, Glos 40; Cranleigh 36 Verulam 0; Cranleigh 14 St Peter's, Glos 10; Verulam 33 St George's College, Weybridge 19; Corfe Hills 17 St George's College, Weybridge 22; Verulam 7 St Peter's, Glos 41. **Group winners:** Cranleigh

GROUP J: Austin Friars 5 Wellington College 36; Kelly 17 Claires Court 10; Austin Friars 20 Claires Court 26; Wellington College 17 The Oratory 7; Wellington College 36 Kelly 7; Austin Friars 0 The Oratory 31; Austin Friars 5 Kelly 24; The Oratory 26 Claires Court 15; Wellington College 26 Claires Court 0; The Oratory 17 Kelly 21. **Group winners:** Wellington Coll.

GROUP K: Ivybridge 21 Christ's Hospital 5; Mill Hill 28 Feltham Blacksheep 5, Ivybridge 43 Feltham Blacksheep 0, Christ's Hospital 10 Ryde 29; Christ's Hospital 0 Mill Hill 42; Ivybridge 40 Rye 14; Ivybridge 17 Mill Hill 29; Ryde 45 Feltham Blacksheep 7; Christ's Hospital 19 Feltham Blacksheep 5; Ryde 21 Mill Hill 28. **Group winners:** Mill Hill.

GROUP L: Devenant Foundation 10 Bloxham 36; St Peter's, York 17 Wellington School 14; Devenant Foundation 10 Wellington School 42; Bloxham 12 RGS Guildford 20; Bloxham 28 St Peter's, York 38; Devenant Foundation 0 RGS Guildford 43; Devenant Foundation 7 St Peter's, York 22; RGS Guildford 27 Wellington School 19; Bloxham 17 Wellington School 5; RGS Guildford 26 St Peter's, York 21. **Group winners:** RGS Guildford.

GROUP M: Cardinal Vaughan 5 Eastbourne 26; Ridings 7 Goffs GS 31; Cardinal Vaughan 7 Goffs GS 22; Eastbourne 27 Rutlish 0; Eastbourne 34 Ridings 7, Cardinal Vaughan 19 Rutlish 0; Cardinal Vaughan 38 Ridings 12; Rutlish 0 Goffs GS 52; Eastbourne 33 Goffs GS 5; Rutlish 0 Ridings 51. **Group winners:** Eastbourne

GROUP N: St Bees 14 Blundell's 40; Windsor Boys 39 Colfe's 5; St Bees 19 Colfe's 14; Blundell's 7 St Edward's, Oxford 33; Blundell's 42 Windsor Boys 26, St Bees 12 St Edward's, Oxford 22; St Bees 0 Windsor Boys 34; St Edward's, Oxford 48 Colfe's 0, Blundell's 36 Colfe's 0; St Edward's, Oxford 19 Windsor Boys 12. **Group winners:** St Edward's, Oxford

GROUP O: Torquay Boys 17 Taunton 17; Halliford 7 Epsom 31; Torquay Boys 20 Epsom 12; Taunton v Castle w/o; Taunton 27 Halliford 0; Torquay Boys v Castle w/o; Torquay Boys 41 Halliford 0; Epsom v Castle w/o; Taunton 36 Epsom 14; Halliford v Castle w/o. **Group winners:** Taunton.

GROUP P: Rannoch 7 Sherborne 28; Hereford Cathedral 12 King's Bruton 29; Rannoch 5 King's Bruton 22; Sherborne 7 Brighton College 34; Sherborne 19 Hereford Cathedral 22; Rannoch 0 Brighton College 46; Rannoch 5 Hereford Cathedral 17; Brighton College 33 King's Bruton 19; Sherborne 19 King's Bruton 19; Brighton College 38 Hereford Cathedral 10. **Group winners:** Brighton Col.

GROUP Q: Ellesmere 27 Wycliffe 17; St Columba's 19 Berkhamsted 22; Ellesmere 5 Berkhamsted 19; Wycliffe 0 Eton 52; Wycliffe 21 St Columba's 50; Ellesmere 7 Eton 31; Ellesmere 7 St Columba's 19; Eton 24 Berkhamsted 17; Wycliffe 17 Berkhamsted 24; Eton 47 St Columba's 0. **Group winners:** Eton.

GROUP R: Duke of York's 21 Milton Abbey 19; Christ College 28 Pangbourne 17; Duke of York's 21 Pangbourne 36; Milton Abbey 5 Sir Joseph Williamsons 17; Milton Abbey 10 Christ College 42; Duke of York's 24 Sir Joseph Williamsons 7; Duke of York's 0 Christ College 50; Sir Joseph Williamsons 19 Pangbourne 24; Milton Abbey 12 Pangbourne 42; Sir Joseph Williamsons 0 Christ College 45. **Group winners:** Christ's Col.

GROUP S: Bedford Modern 31 Seaford 5; Whitgift 12 Monkton Combe 24; Bedford Modern 26 Monkton Combe 24; Seaford 5 Gresham's 34; Seaford 12 Whitgift 26; Bedford Modern 14 Gresham's 31; Bedford Modern 17 Whitgift 26, Gresham's 7 Monkton Combe 33; Seaford 0 Monkton Combe 45; Gresham's 22 Whitgift 14. **Group winners:** Monkton Combe.

GROUP T: Bristol GS 12 Plymouth 19; Hitchin Boys 5 Worth 28; Bristol GS 19 Worth 21; Plymouth 32 Howard of Effingham 14; Plymouth 40 Hitchin Boys 19; Bristol GS 27 Howard of Effingham 0; Bristol GS 29 Hitchin Boys 24; Howard of Effingham 26 Worth 33; Plymouth 33 Worth 19; Howard of Effingham 19 Hitchin Boys 40. **Group winners:** Plymouth.

GROUP U: KCS 28 Radley 14; Hurstpierpoint 47 West Buckland 12, KCS 42 West Buckland 0; Radley 26 Aylesbury 19; Radley 26 Hurstpierpoint 7; KCS 38 Aylesbury 0. KCS 45 Hurstpierpoint 5; Aylesbury 26 West Buckland 5; Radley 41 West Buckland 14; Aylesbury 12 Hurstpierpoint 12. **Group winners:** KCS.

GROUP V: Barnard Castle 33 King's, Worcester 19; Lord William's 7 Colston's 20; Barnard Castle 0 Colston's 31, King's, Worcs 41 Licensed Victuallers 12; King's, Worcs 36 Lord William's 5; Barnard Castle 40 Licensed Victuallers 12; Barnard Castle 38 Lord William's 5; Licensed Victuallers 0 Colston's 61; King's, Worcs 10 Colston's 40; Licensed Victuallers 0 Lord William's 34. **Group winners:** Colston's.

GROUP W: Sevenoaks 31 Basingstoke 0; King's, Peterborough 7 King Edward's, Bath 29; Sevenoaks 21 King Edward's, Bath 26; Basingstoke 10 Reading 19; Basingstoke 10 King's, Peterborough 24, Sevenoaks 42 Reading 7; Sevenoaks 63 King's, Peterborough 5; Reading 5 King Edward's, Bath 29; Basingstoke 0 King Edward's, Bath 43; Reading 29 King's, Peterborough 12. **Group winners:** King Edward's, Bath

GROUP X: Bearwood 0 Truro School 24; Rossall 52 Gordano 0; Bearwood 37 Gordano 0; Truro School 19 Latymer Upper 5; Truro School 0 Rossall 31; Bearwood 10 Latymer Upper 35; Bearwood 0 Rossall 45, Latymer Upper 43 Gordano 0; Truro School 38, Gordano 0, Latymer Upper 12 Rossall 42. **Group winners:** Rossall.

Knock-out stage: First round: Cranbrook 19 Bryanston 35; Trent 24 Cheltenham 5, Prior Park 10 Uppingham 28; Dean Close bye to next round; Giggleswick bye; Cranleigh 14 Wellington Coll 24; Mill Hill 17 RGS Guildford 31, Taunton bye; Brighton Coll bye; Eton bye; Christ's Coll bye; Monkton Combe 21 Plymouth 24, KCS 28 Colston's 35; King Edward's, Bath bye, Rossall bye.

England's triple chance falters

ENGLAND'S unbeaten record in the Atlantic Rim Games in Cape Town was shattered when Jean Baker, Catherine Popple and Norma Shaw sank to a 24-8 triples defeat at the hands of Swaziland yesterday (David Rhys Jones writes).

England has nearly 100,000 bowlers, while there are only 39 registered women bowlers in Swaziland. Dawn Squires in Swaziland, was born in England, but has lived in Swaziland for many years, while her Swaziland team-mates, Wendy Vickery and Mariana Goddard, are expatriates from South Africa. Swaziland, a land-locked country, accepted an invitation to make a guest appearance in the Atlantic Rim event only when Brazil withdrew.

England's defeat left them second in the seven-match round robin that they have to win in order to contest the final tomorrow. They will complete their group programme with a vital match against Scotland, the league leaders.

Kath Hawes and Mary Price, of England, the defending pairs champions, almost suffered the same indignity as their triples colleagues when Spain held a match-winning lie against them. At 17-17 after 20 ends, Pat Fisher and Jan McManus, who played in Surrey and Essex respectively before emigrating to Spain, looked home and dry when a bowl by Fisher sat on the jack.

"I tried to block Mary's path to the jack," McManus said afterwards. "But she found a way to pick it up with a running bowl and put it in the ditch with her last bowl."

Scotland maintained their unbeaten record in both events, beating Spain and Swaziland.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Clayton to chance his arm

■ **SWIMMING:** Andrew Clayton will race with a broken arm when the Great Britain 4 x 200 metres freestyle team compete at the world short-course championships in Hong Kong next week. Clayton was fitted with a specialised waterproof cast that allowed him to train despite the break. He injured the arm by cycling into a wall on his way to training two weeks ago.

■ **BASKETBALL:** Charles Bannerman, the former assistant coach to Kevin Cadle at London Towers, will be the new coach of Worthing Bears next season after the decision of the Budweiser League's bottom club to part company with Sean Loucks. Under Loucks, Worthing have only won once in 30 games this season. Bannerman has been Loucks's assistant since the new year.

■ **SNOOKER:** John Higgins, who achieved his fourth tournament win of the season at the China International in Shanghai nine days ago, is a warm favourite for the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters, which begins in Co Kildare today. The 12-man invitation event features the top nine players in the world rankings, in addition to Steve Davis, Jimmy White and Michael Judge.

■ **RUGBY LEAGUE:** Paul Davidson, of St Helens, will appear before the Rugby Football League disciplinary committee today for allegedly elbowing Craig Wilson, of Gateshead Thunder. Davidson's forward colleague, Vila Matautia, was cleared of a high tackle in the match on Sunday.

■ **TENNIS:** Andrew Richardson, the former Great Britain Davis Cup player, has retired from full-time professional tennis. The 25-year-old Lincolnshire player reached the third round of Wimbledon in 1997.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

Mike Lawrence, whose product "Private Bridge Lessons Volume II" I mentioned the other day, tells this story against himself. He was East, defending Three No-Trumps in a teams event.

Dealer South | Love all | IMPs

North: ♠ 10 9 3 ♡ 10 8 5 2 ◇ K 7 2 ♣ A 8 7

West: ♠ J 8 5 4 ♡ A Q J 9 ◇ 6 ♣ 10 5 3 2

East: ♠ A 7 2 ♡ 6 4 3 ◇ 9 5 4 3 ♣ K 9 4

South: ♠ K Q 6 ♡ K 7 ◇ A Q J 10 8 ♣ Q J 6

W	N	E	S
–	–	–	1 D
Pass	1 H	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	All Pass	

Contract: Three No-Trumps. Lead: four of spades.

The defenders started with a spade to the ace and a spade return. This friendly defence gave declarer two spade tricks to go with five diamonds and a club. Which is the safest way for South to create a ninth trick?

The declarer John Zilac played a club to the ace and continued with another club. Mike Lawrence (East) thought that declarer might have Q 10 x x of clubs, and played low, hoping declarer would misguess. That saw declarer home. I must say, it is a tough play for East to rise with the king of clubs and play a heart.

The European Pairs, held in Warsaw last week, was won by Paul Chemla and Alain Levy of France. Second were Norberto Bocchi and Giorgio Duboin of Italy, with Apolinary Kowalski and Jacek Romanski of Poland third. British pairs in the final were Graham Jepson and Peter Littlewood (21st) and Jason Hackett and David Mossop-who led after the qualifying stages-(38th). The Seniors Pairs was dominated by the host nation who took all the medals. Good British results included Peter Lee and Bob Rowlands (10th) and the Leighton brothers (13th).

Nearer to home, the British Mixed Pairs Championship (the Portland Pairs) was won by Raymond and Sally Brock. Second were Steve Preston and Heather Maidment with Andrew Macintosh and Su Burn third.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Youth challenge

On Sunday March 28, 10-year-old Murugan Thiruchelvam challenges grandmaster Jonathan Levitt to a six-game, rapid-play match at the London chess centre in Euston Road. Murugan hopes to become the youngest player in the world ever to have beaten a grandmaster in a tournament game. The existing record is held by Hikaru Nakamura, who last year defeated the US grandmaster Arthur Bisguier. If Murugan succeeds he will break this record by ten days.

White: Arthur Bisguier
Black: Hikaru Nakamura
Somerset (USA) 1998

Caro-Kann Defence

1	e4	c6
2	d4	d5
3	exd5	cxd5
4	c4	Nf6
5	Nc3	Nc6
6	Nf3	e6
7	Be2	Be7
8	0-0	0-0
9	Re1	b6
10	cxd5	Nxd5
11	Nxd5	Qxd5
12	Be3	Bb7
13	Qa4	Bf6
14	Qb3	Rfd8
15	Rad1	Rd7
16	Qxd5	Rxd5
17	Bc4	Rd6
18	Bf4	Rd7
19	Bb5	Rad8
20	Bxc6	Bxc6
21	Ne5	Rxd4
22	Rxd4	Rxd4
23	Nxc6	Rxf4
24	Rd1	Ra4
25	a3	g5
26	Rd2	Rc4

White resigns

Here is a game showing just what Murugan is capable of.

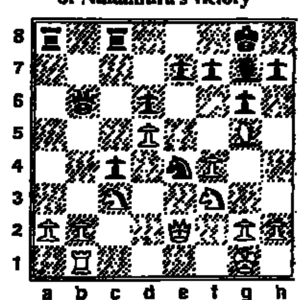
White: Westra
Black: Thiruchelvam
York Open 1998

King's Indian Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	g6
3	Nc3	Bg7
4	e4	d6
5	Bg5	0-0
6	f4	c5
7	d5	b5
8	cxb5	a6
9	bxa6	Bxa6
10	Bxa6	Nxa6
11	Nf3	Qb6
12	Rb1	c4
13	Qe2	Rfc8
14	Qf2	Nc5
15	0-0	Ng4
16	Qe2	Nxe4+
17	Kh1	Ngf2+
18	Kg1	Nh3+
19	Kh1	Nef2+
20	Rxf2	Nxf2+
21	Kg1	Ne4+

White resigns

Diagram of final position of Nakamura's victory



Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by email. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from Times readers will be published either here or in the Saturday Times Weekend column.

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

FAVUS
a. A wind
b. A fawn
c. A skin disease

GARD
a. A species of grape
b. A fencing thrust
c. Attention

GRISON
a. A secret servant
b. A type of hawk
c. A Capuchin friar

FACUND
a. Fertile
b. An artificial wave
c. Eloquent

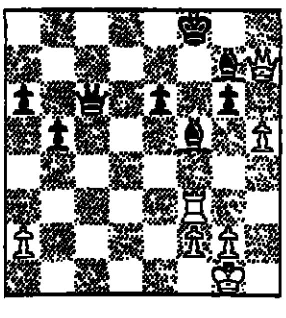
Answers on page 50

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Sasaikiran - Sharma, Calcutta 1999.

The white queen occupies a threatening post but is also, to a certain extent, awkwardly placed. How did Black exploit this?



Solution on page 50

Champ in search of a crown

Dario Franchitti is coveted by Formula One but, as **Kevin Eason** reports, he wants to conquer the United States first

The links that tie Dario Franchitti to Formula One are strong, but his transition from budding champion to star of the world's premier motor-sport series has not been as smooth as for many of his Scottish countrymen.

While David Coulthard, his rival as a young karting champion, moved seamlessly to the top, securing drives with the world championship teams of Williams and then McLaren, Franchitti found himself banished to what seemed might be the anonymity of the United States and the Champ Car series, once known as IndyCars.

Franchitti, who finished third in the opening Champ Car race of the season in Miami on Sunday, is a wanted man at last. His exploits at the end of last season, when he finished third in the championship after winning three out of four races in the title run-in, stamped his talent on the series, even overshadowing the title-winner, Alex Zanardi, who then switched to Formula One and a seat this year with Williams.

Franchitti had his chance to fulfil his lifelong dream and move too, but decided the time was not right. He spurned two multimillion-dollar offers from Formula One teams, desperate to recruit a rare talent, to stay in Champ Cars, where he has unfinished business.

"I have sometimes thought that I could never get to Formula One," he said yesterday. "I have dreamt about being in Formula One since I was a child, but somehow the chances never seemed to come my way and I ended up in America. More than one Formula One team came after me at the end of last season and put deals on the table for 1999. I just didn't think the time was right. When I go to Formula One, I want to have the right experience. Maybe at the end of 2000 I will be ready and by then, hopefully, I will have championships to show for my time here in the States."

'Maybe by the end of 2000 I will be ready'

The logic is irrefutable, the Scotsman simply weighing up his chances of victory as he spent most of last year working hard to get his Reynard-Honda into shape to challenge. After a shaky start, car and driver started to work in remarkable harmony in the second half of the season, in contrast to Mark Blundell, the former McLaren and Tyrrell Formula One driver, who had a poor 1998 but started reasonably well by finishing eighth on Sunday.

Franchitti wants to capitalise this year for his Team KOOL Green, the same team that tantalisingly took Jacques Villeneuve to the title before he left for Formula One and the 1997 world championship. Franchitti, 25, knows that his chances of victory in the United States remain far greater than in Formula One. In the US, he is with one of the top teams in a top car; in Formula One, he could find himself consigned to mid-grid mediocrity.

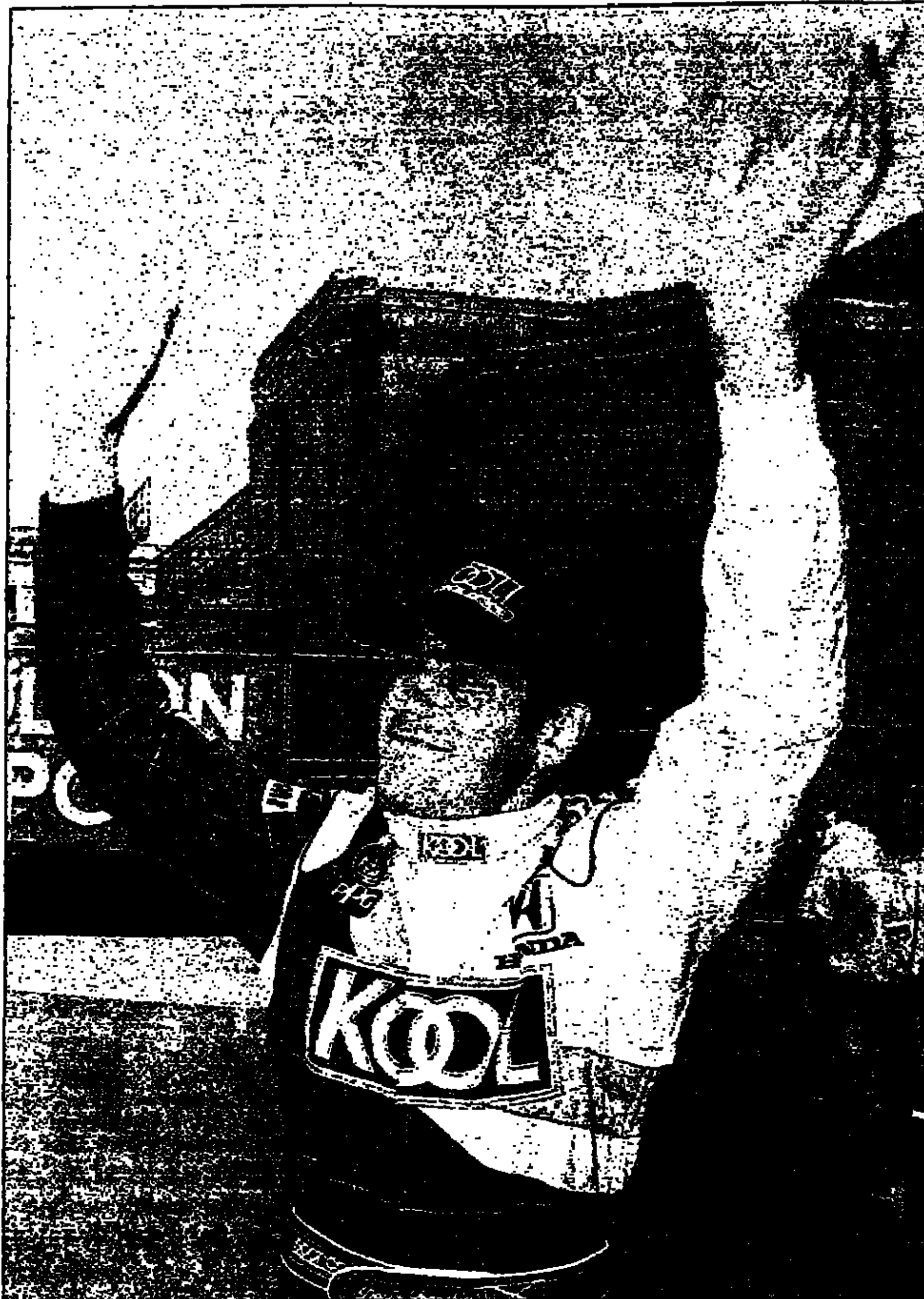
"There is no point in going to Formula One just for the sake of it," he said. "I have no interest in Formula One unless I am with a competitive team. There is nothing worse than just going round knowing you have no chance of winning."

Perhaps that statement of confidence comes from the understanding that, at last, the West Lothian man has stepped out of the shadows of his countrymen. The lineage of Scottish drivers is remarkable, from Jim Clark and Jackie Stewart, who won his last championship in 1973, the year that Franchitti was born, to the present class of Coulthard, Colin McRae, in rallying, and the Le Mans winner, Alan McNish.

Though any one of ten drivers could win the Champ Car championship this season, Franchitti's name will head most betting slips. However, he is taking nothing for granted. "This is a tough sport," he said. "You are only as good as the victories to your name, which is why I am staying where I am for the time being, until I am assured the team and car in Formula One I know will give me a chance at a world championship.

"It is common sense, but I have to get back to the business of winning to ensure that my chance does come. I will be ready to grab it when it does."

FRANK GUNN



Only victory will do for Franchitti after finishing third in the Champ Car series last year

Unser receives medical attention after his crash in Miami

Moore gets it right fourth time

GREG MOORE enjoyed victory in Florida at the fourth attempt when he won the Miami Grand Prix, the first race of the 1999 Champ Car Championship, on Sunday. "I wouldn't say we were dominant," Moore said after winning the fifth event of his career in the series. "We had lucky breaks many times."

In his first three tries at the Homestead-Miami Speedway, his best finish was second. After winning pole position, the Canadian fell back to fifteenth place, owing to a faulty airjack, but came back to be runner-up.

Moore started from the pole again, in a Reynard-Mercedes-Benz, and led the first 59 laps until his first pit stop. He retook the lead for good on lap 114 and held off the Swift-Ford of Michael Andretti by 1.110 seconds. Dario Franchitti, of Scotland, finished third in a Reynard-Honda, 2.146sec behind Moore.

Al Unser Jr, who has won the the Indy 500 twice, sustained a fractured right ankle and a torn ligament in his left knee and Naoki Hattori broke his left leg when their cars collided on the first lap.

The second race of the series is in Japan on April 10.

LINKS

WEBSITE:
www.cart.com/ — official site
TELEVISION: Live races on Eurosport

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 49

FAVUS
(c) A contagious disease of the skin, characterised by pustules, so-called from its resemblance to a honey-comb. "The Favus, when it happens on the face, and the vesications behind the ears, often arise from the same cause."

GARD
(c) Attention, watchfulness. Also, the object of one's attention. From the French, as in *prendre garde à*. "All their gard and regard, all their eyes upon him alone, what serve they for?"

GRISON
(a) A servant without livery, dressed in grey, for secret errands. From the French word for "grey". "I think I must keep a Secretary, I keep Grisons Fellows out of Livery, privately for nothing, but to carry Answers."

FACUND
(c) Eloquent. Also, figuratively, said of beauty, etc. From the Latin *facundus*, from *fari* to speak. "Poets and excellent musicians whose brains not moisted with the juice of Bacchus be nothing plenty nor facund."

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE
1 ... Qxf3! 2 gxf3 g5 and the white queen is trapped.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Soccer's spiritual side

Hoddle and the Healer
Channel 4, 9pm

No preview tape was available, but as it is directed by the distinguished Roger Mills, this documentary about Glenn Hoddle, Eileen Drewery, healing, Buddhism and football should be quite a firecracker. Hoddle speaks out for the first time since his dismissal as England manager last month — about his belief in healing, his relationship with Eileen and that misguided quote which understandably enraged the disabled and led to his sacking. It would seem that healing has been part of the football scene for at least 20 years and tonight, in the week of England's crucial match against Poland, both players and managers come out on the subject.



Glenn Hoddle and the faith healer Eileen Drewery (Channel 4, 9pm)

Close Up: J.D. Salinger Doesn't Want To Talk
BBC2, 9.30pm

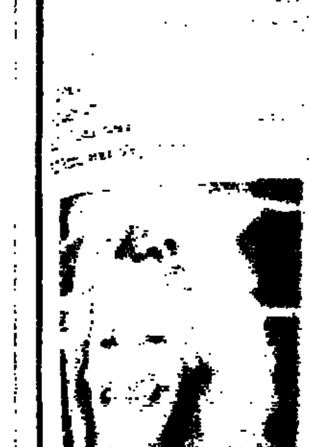
It's only 220 lousy pages, as the author himself might say about his American classic *The Catcher in the Rye*. But to the millions who have cherished these 48 hours in the life of 15-year-old Holden Caulfield, the pages are pure gold. Today the author, Jerome D. Salinger, is America's most notable recluse. What turned this son of affluent parents in a secure background into a still-famous author who won't be photographed, give interviews, or leave his village in the depths of New Hampshire? Salinger is nearly 80 now and there is snatched film of him in his garden. For the rest the programme relies — with commendable success — on friends, critics and lovers who have peopled his life. They recall how his terrible war experiences radically changed him and why he still seems to identify with the innocence of the young — those who hate phoneys just as Holden did.

Emmerdale
ITV, 7pm

Ah yes — remember when this rough-and-tumble lot were called *Emmerdale Farm* and the emphasis was on what you did with your hay — not in it? Well, congratulations are in order for tonight sees a one-hour special to celebrate the 2,500th edition of this Yorkshire series. And yes, they are making hay. Expect two big announcements, a brawl at a ball, and a burglary. Kelly (Adele Silva) and Mandy (Lisa Riley) both get marriage proposals — but will they accept them?

Jailbirds: Guilt Trip
BBC1, 9.30pm (Scotland, 10.55pm)

Chris Terrill's fly-on-a-cell-wall portrait of a women's prison (New Hall, Yorkshire) just keeps getting better as honesty, misery, hope and humour bubble out of his shrewdly chosen cross-section of inmates. Take tonight: the poignancy of the 71-year old fraudster Ivy, patiently working on her jigsaw while her radio plays *September Song*... She's a philosophical, tough and tender old bird (watch her reading out letters from home to young, illiterate prisoners) and you yearn for her Crown Court date to go as she wishes. It doesn't. But Ivy can take it; 17 year old Melissa (drugs/burglary) can't and if you heard her phone call last night begging her Mum for a bit of support you'll yearn for her too. Tonight sees her parents' "guilt trip" to visit their weeping daughter. **Elizabeth Cowley**



RADIO CHOICE

A Good Read
Radio 4, 4pm

A new series of the programme in which writers talk about paperback releases. *A Good Read* is always a good listen because the guests reveal a lot about their own tastes in writing and therefore something about themselves. Today, for example, Richard Fortey, senior palaeontologist at the Natural History Museum and an accessible writer on science, chooses *The Tortilla Curtain*, a novel about Mexicans living in California and middle-class attitudes towards them. Fortey says: "The hero is a typically wishy-washy liberal and furthermore a writer of natural history articles, so he is a character in some ways not unadjacent to myself." Brian Aldis is Sarah leFanu's other guest today and he chooses *The Reader* by Bernard Schlick.

Take A Letter Miss Smith
Radio 2, 9pm

I don't recall Miss Moneypenny in the Bond films doing a lot of typing or tea-making but apparently Samantha Bond (sic), who plays her in the latest 007 movie, took more than a few letters before going to drama school. She presents this look at the role of the secretary down the ages, from the hum-drummery of the typing pool to the high-flying PAs who now seem to be as powerful, and intimidating, as some of their bosses. Various celebrities recall their secretarial experiences, including Baroness (Brenda) Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde, who once told an employer she was underworked, only to be told to bring in some knitting. The programme reflects the sea change in boss-secretary relationships. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Scott Mills 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00pm Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce. Chart hits 8.00 Steve Lamacq: The Evening Session 10.00 Digital Update 10.10 John Peel 12.00 The Breezeblock 2.00am Clive Warren 4.00 Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05 Johnnie Walker 7.00 Alan Freeman: Their Greatest Bits 8.00 Nigel Ogden 9.00 Take a Letter Miss Smith! See Choice 10.00 The Directors: Terry Gilliam (6/6) 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.00 Katrina Leskanich 3.00am Mo Dutta

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News. Headlines and sport from around the world, with Annie Webster 1.00pm Ruscoe and Co 4.00 Drive. Peter Allen and Jane Garvey with news and sport 7.00 News Extra 7.30 The Tuesday Match. Russell Fuller presents top football action 10.00 Late Night Live. News and topical discussion, with Nick Robinson 1.00am Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast 9.00 Scott Chisholm & Sally James 12.00 Crime Fighters 1.00pm Anna Raeburn 4.00 The Sports Zone 7.00 The World of Formula 1 8.00 Cheating Hearts 10.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans 9.30 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Harriet Scott 6.45 Pete and Geoff 10.00 Gary Davies 1.00am Richard Allen 4.30 Phil Kennedy

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today 7.00 World News 7.15 Outlook 7.55 My Century 8.00 World News 8.05 Performance 8.20 Off the Shelf: Enduring Love 8.35 Discovery 9.00 World News 9.05 The Moonstone 9.20 Junction Box 9.50 Sports Round-Up 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 Britain Today 10.45 Good Books 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Omnibus 12.00 World News 12.05pm Outlook 12.45 Sports Round-Up 1.00 Newshour 2.00 World News 2.05 Discovery 2.30 Meridian 3.00 World News 3.05 Sports Round-Up 3.15 Westway 3.30 Everywoman 4.00 World News 4.15 Insight 4.30 Megamix 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Round-Up 6.00 World News 6.15 Britain Today 6.30 Omnibus 7.00 World News 7.05 Discovery 7.30 Human Remains 7.45 Off the Shelf: Enduring Love 8.00 Newshour 9.00 World News 9.05 World Business Report 9.20 Britain Today 9.30 Meridian Live 10.00 World News 10.15 Sports Round-Up 10.30 Megamix 11.00 World News 11.05 Outlook 11.45 Insight 12.00 The World Today 12.30am Discovery 12.55 My Century 1.00 The World Today 1.30 On Screen 2.00 The World Today 2.30 Mapping the World 3.00 The World Today 3.20 Sports Round-Up 3.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Soothing music to start the day and information updates 8.00 Henry Kelly. Includes the Hall of Fame Hour and CD of the Week 12.00 Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones introduces listeners' favourite pieces of classical music 2.00pm Concerto. Mozart (Flute and Harp Concerto in C major) 3.00 Jamie Crick. Includes information updates, Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance 6.30 Newsnight. Sport, finance and news updates, presented by John Brunning 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces two hours of easy-listening sounds 9.00 Evening Concert. Michael Nyman (The Piano Concerto); Adams (Shaker Loops); Arvo Part (Fratres); Steve Reich (Different Trains) 11.00 Mann at Night. Music and conversation through the small hours with Alan Mann 2.00am Concerto. Mozart (Flute and Harp Concerto in C major) (r) 3.00 Mark Griffiths introduces the Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air Penny Gore presents music and arts news. Including a review of a new play by Moises Kaufman about the trials of Oscar Wilde which opened last night at the Gielgud Theatre
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Balakirev (Overture on Three Russian Themes); Canteloube (Songs of the Auvergne, Series 1); Ravel (Menuet sur le nom d'Haydn); Mozart (String Quartet in D minor, K421); Bach (Italian Concerto in F, BWV971); Zelenka (Capriccio No 5 in G)
10.30 Artist of the Week: The Labeque Sisters
11.00 Sound Stories: Islands Richard Baker investigates the importance of Manhattan in Western musical culture
12.00 Composer of the Week: Schubert
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert A recital given on Sunday by the Vanbrugh Quartet)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Tadaaki Otaka and David Atherton, Raphael Oleg, violin. Stravinsky (Circus Polka); Beethoven (Violin Concerto in D); Rimsky-Korsakov (Capriccio Espagnol); Glazunov (Symphony No 2 in F sharp minor)
4.00 Voices Sarah Walker talks to Iain Burnside (r)
4.45 Music Machine with Tommy Pearson (r)
5.00 In Tune with Sean Rafferty. Music includes Haydn (Trumpet Concerto in E flat); Bartok (Dance Suite)
7.30 Performance on 3: The Borodins at St George's The third of four concerts given by the Borodin Quartet at St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. Brahms (String Quartet No 3 in B flat, Op 67) 8.05 A Sound Read: Ivan Hewett is joined by Steve Jones, professor of genetics at University College, London, and by the theatre critic Michael Billington 8.25 Tchaikovsky (String Quartet No 3 in E flat minor, Op 30)
9.25 Postscript: The Body Politic Iwan Russell-Jones looks at attitudes to the body in our culture (2/5)
9.50 BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Martyn Brabbins. Maxwell Davies (Fantasia on an In nomine of John Taverner No 2)
10.45 Night Waves Richard Coles reviews Terence Conran's exhibition *From the Bomb to the Beatles* in London
11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shipton presents the final part of a concert by George Melly and John Chilton's Feetwarmers recorded at the Concord Club, Eastleigh (r)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Strauss (r)
1.00am Through the Night 1.00 Musica Alta Ripa play trio sonatas and concertos from 17th-century Italy. 2.25 Reger (Ach Herr, strafe mich nicht 2.40 Mozart (Piano Sonata in B, K333: 3.00 Schools: Playtime 3.15 Time to Move 3.35 Let's Make a Story 3.50 Drama Workshop 4.10 In the News Topical Roundup 4.30 Hop, Skip and Jump 4.45 Anns a'Bhad 5.00 Mozart (Eine kleine Nachmusik) 5.20 Couperin (Les Maillotins) 5.35 Berlioz (Menuet des Follets, The Damnation of Faust) 5.45 Falla (The Three-Cornered Hat Suite No 2)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today News and issues in rural Britain
6.00 Today Introduced by James Naughtie
8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament Update on political developments
9.00 Unreliable Evidence with Clive Anderson
9.30 Song Lines The origins and development of well-known songs (1/5) (r)
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.45 (FM) Serial: Radio 4 at The Word — Grape Jelly Written and read by Jan Morris
10.00 Woman's Hour with Martha Kearney
11.00 Nature Nick Baker celebrates the arrival of spring in Cornwall (r)
11.30 Chambers Ruth and Hilary go on an Outward Bound weekend, but the whole experience turns into a nightmare they'd rather forget. John Bird, James Fleet and Sarah Lancaster star (3/4)
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours Topical consumer news and investigations, presented by Mark Whittaker and Trixie Rawlinson
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 The Musical Side of the Family The art historian Alison Smith talks about her marriage to the popular composer Donald Swann (3/6)
2.00 The Archers Broadcast yesterday (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: The End of the World is the Best Thing That Ever Happened To Me Julie Wilkinson's comedy about the healing power of Mancunian hedonism. With Michelle Holmes
3.00 The Exchange: 0870 010 0444 Eddie Mair invites listeners' views on a topical issue
3.30 The New Recruit (2/5) (r)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey narrates part 57 of the history of Britain. (r)
4.00 A Good Read New series. See Choice
4.30 Shop Talk Business matters, presented by Heather Payton
5.00 PM with Chris Lowe and Clare English
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Mammon The corporation applies commercial principles to the honours system while tackling political reform. Starring Jonathan Aris and Mathew Bell. Last in series (6/6)
7.00 The Archers
7.15 Front Row The nightly arts programme, presented by Francine Stock
7.45 The Cry of the Bittern Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour* (r)
8.00 Face the Facts John Waite and his team follow up listeners' complaints
8.40 In Touch Peter White presents news for visually impaired people
9.00 Virus: the Unseen Enemy The implications of using animal organs for transplant, and the possibility of a vaccine for cervical cancer (4/4)
9.30 Unreliable Evidence Broadcast earlier (r)
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Radio 4 at The Word — Best Wishes from Jemima Shore by Antonia Fraser. The amateur sleuth receives a surprising request from an admirer during a book-signing tour
11.00 News 11.05 Late Night on 4: Do Go On Comic conversations, with Ainsley Elliot, the geneticist Jeff Dodman, Griff Rhys Jones and Graeme Garden. Last in series (3/3) (r)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament
11.30 (FM) Talking Pictures Brian Sibley talks to the actor David Hemmings
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Raymond Carver Short Stories — They're Not Your Husband Earl needs a job, and his wife needs to lose weight (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, Ian Hughes, Gillian Maxey, Jane Gregory and Barry O'Keefe

Paradise lost, but was it ever really found?

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

Fletcher Christian has always been a fascinating, but not necessarily always appealing, character. Certainly not to Clark Gable, who was reluctant to play the part in Irving Thalberg's *Mutiny On The Bounty*, opposite Charles Laughton's Captain Bligh. He told the producer, bluntly: "Look, Irving, I'm a realistic kind of actor. I've never played in a costume drama in my life. Now you want me to wear a pigtail and velvet knee pants and shoes with silver buckles. The audience will laugh me off the screen."

But what most unsettled Gable was the idea of getting rid of his 'tache. "I'll be damned if I'll shave off my moustache just because the British Navy didn't allow them. This moustache has been damned lucky for me." Of course, what Gable should have been whining about was that Christian's story only began to get truly interesting long after the mutiny, when he and his fellow mutineers set sail from Tahiti on *HMS Bounty* to flee the Admiralty's wrath. They eventually made a new Eden for themselves on Pitcairn, an island in the middle of the South Pacific.

Who Killed Fletcher Christian, Nick Godwin's documentary for Channel 4's *To The Ends Of The Earth* series, took up the story in 1790, a year after the mutiny, when Christian, eight mutineers and 18 Polynesians landed on Pitcairn.

The story is pieced together like a torn map through the research of Dr Martin Gibb and his team of Australian archaeologists, who have discovered 38 direct descendants of the mutineers still living on the island — including Tom Christian, Fletcher's great, great, great grandson — along with enough relics of the mutineers' lives to add some flesh to the folklore still surrounding the world's most famous mutiny.

Like most Edens, things didn't run smoothly for very long. By the time two British men o' war finally tracked down the rebels nearly two decades later, only one of the original mutineers, David Adams, was left. He was in his fifties and was sharing the tiny island with dozens of women and children. The intervening years were not the sort of paradise they used to show in Bounty chocolate bar commercials. This was largely because while they may have been fearless mutineers, Fletcher and his quiver weren't too smart when it came to human nature.

For a start the Europeans carved up all the land among themselves. They also kept most of the Tahitian women. Now, it doesn't take Freud to work out that a Polynesian man — facing a pretty short lifespan anyway — who can't occasionally rub up against a Polynesian woman, soon feels that he's being rubbed up the wrong way.

Christian crushed an initial rebellion by killing two Polynesians *pour décourager les autres*. But a couple of years later the remaining Polynesians borrowed the Europeans' rifles on the pretext of going on a pig hunt: the mutineers lent them the guns, in anticipation of the lads bringing home some bacon. Only later did they discover that they themselves were the bacon: five Europeans, including Christian, were killed.

Of the four Europeans who survived the various massacres, one went loopy after swilling too much tea tree liquor, and another became so violent that Adams had to kill him. At this point Adams had a revelation and saw that his mission was to bring up the island's 20 children as Christians, using the *Bounty's* Bible as guidance. It is still used in Pitcairn's church today.

When representatives of the Admiralty finally came for Adams, they were so taken by what they saw as the redemption of savages by a British seaman, that they spared him from the gallows.

Although Thalberg made the original movie of the mutiny against Bligh, the sequel depicting the mutineers' descent into savagery and mayhem would have been a natural project for Sam Goldwyn, a producer who liked his movies to start with an earthquake and then build to a real climax.

Cutting Edge: Playing for England (Channel 4) was the latest evidence that even if England can't produce a world-beating football team, nobody's going to stop us making documentaries about subjects related to that non-world-beating football team. This one follows nine Sheffield Wednesday fans who were selected to play for England, but in a brass band rather than on the pitch. You remember them, don't you? Playing the theme tune from *The Great Escape* every time England played a match in last summer's World Cup?

Rupert Murray's film — by following the band's joyous excitement at being paid to travel around France watching the World Cup, and the band members' subsequent desolation when England were knocked out on penalties — neatly mirrors the national team's rise and fall. But isn't it time for Kenneth Wolstenholme to come on and tell us that, as far as soccer documentaries go, it really *is* over now?

In **Bitesize Britain** (BBC2), a couple are licking chocolate body paint off each other's bodies. This is apparently very erotic (provided, off course, you're not licking chocoloate body paint off your *own* body, which is obviously something kinky you should probably do only in private). What makes chocolate so sexy is that it contains a chemical called phenylethylamine (literally "your place or mine"), which is an anti-depressant that creates a sensation of euphoria similar to that of being in love. Frankly, in these days of safe sex, you're probably better off sticking to those chocolate sweets, the ones that melt in your mouth, not on your skin.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (41410)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (27507)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (2222323)
9.45 Style Challenge (7694728)
10.10 The Vanessa Show (T) (7111762)
10.55 News; Weather (T) (3771149)
11.00 Change That (3781526)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (3751385)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (7639323)
12.00 Call My Bluff (72168)
12.30pm Wipeout (4205781)
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (53349781)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (20694)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (59278656)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (35318014)
2.05 Ironside (r) (5539859)
2.55 Through the Keyhole (r) (T) (5514174)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6175656) **3.45** Enchanted Lands (5720507) **3.55** Hububb (9450439) **4.10** Chipmunks Go to the Movies (5105410) **4.35** The Really Wild Show (3759859) **5.00** Newsround (4414385) **5.10** Grange Hill (9101472)
5.33 Rewind (T) (980878)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (376385)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (859)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (439)



Kate Humble goes riding in Oiaanka National Park, Finland (7pm)

7.00 Holiday Jill Dando discovers Ibiza's family appeal and Kate Humble goes riding in Finland (T) (5236)
7.30 Airport A passenger's stash of weapons forces swift action from policewoman Alison Stewart (r) (T) (323)
8.00 EastEnders Matthew finds the house has been burgled (T) (1656)
8.30 Animal Hospital Bonzo the kitten returns a week after being found in a disused building (T) (3491)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (1255)
9.30 CHOICE **Jailbirds** Melissa's parents tell how her drug abuse has devastated their lives (T) (87588)
10.00 Crimewatch UK The hunt for Stephen Varah's killer (T) (854033)
10.55 Billy Connolly's World Tour of Australia Perth/Adelaide (r) (T) (374507)
11.35 Crimewatch UK Update (T) (992120)
11.45 Angel Flight Down (1996) Rescue squads fight to save the crew and passengers of a plane which crashed while taking a child to hospital. Directed by Charles Wilkinson (T) (531588)
1.10am Weather (1834182)
1.15 BBC News 24 (93264144)

9.30-10.00 Week In Week Out (T) (87588) **10.55 Jailbirds** (T) (333149) **11.25 Billy Connolly's World Tour of Australia** (r) (T) (145217) **12.05am Crimewatch UK Update** (T) (6753618) **12.15 FILM: Angel Flight Down** (T) (116340) **1.45 News** (T) (1043057) **1.50-6.00 BBC News 24** (14178971)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC *Breakfast* Show: Pingu **7.05** Teletubbies **7.30** Inch High Private Eye **7.55** Blue Peter **8.20** Goober and the Ghost Chasers **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts **8.50** Pingu **9.00** German Globo **9.05** Hallo aus Berlin **9.10** Working It Out **9.25** Music Makers **9.45** Numbertime **10.00** Teletubbies **10.30** Watch **10.45** Teaching Today **11.15** Megamaths **11.35** Words and Pictures **11.50** D-Mag **12.10pm** English Express **12.30** Working Lunch **1.00** Oakie Doke
1.10 The Edge (r) (T) (41406052)
1.40 Hart-Davis on History (35339507)
2.10 Sporting Greats Bob Wilson (56199656)
2.40 News; Weather (T) (3943946)
2.45 Westminster (T) (4313120)
3.25 News; Weather (T) (4463472)
3.30 The Village (r) (9110304)
3.55 Kaye Advice show (9128323)
4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (6814168)
4.55 Esther r (T) (5899149)
5.30 Whose House? (588)
6.00 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air Comedy starring Will Smith (r) (T) (245217)
6.25 Heartbreak High (T) (829304)
7.10 The O Zone With the Cranberries and Feeder (T) (269217)
7.30 From the Edge Report on whether the Millennium Dome has been designed with the disabled in mind (T) (965)
8.00 House Proud Two self-builders wonder if they'll finish their homes in time for Christmas (4/4) (T) (2526)
8.30 Your Money or Your Life A woman turns to Alvin Hall for help moving out of her parents' home (T) (1033)
9.00 Home Front in the Garden A couple challenge Diarmuid Gavin to make an original play area for their son (T) (9897)



A rare picture of J.D. Salinger, the reclusive American author (9.30pm)

9.30 CHOICE **Close Up** Portrait of one of literature's most famous recluses, J.D. Salinger (T) (467651)
10.20 Coming Clean: The Truth About Housework Differing approaches to washing cars (T) (158878)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (261679)
11.15 Seinfeld Kramer makes a pasta version of Jerry (T) (870149)
11.35 Seinfeld Elaine reconsiders quitting work (T) (296323)
11.55 Weather (344694)
12.00 Despatch Box (26279)
12.30am BBC Learning Zone: Open University: The Passionate Statistician **1.00** The Location Problem **1.30** Reflecting on Conics **2.00** Religious Education — Teaching Today **2.30** Something to Offer **3.00** Taking Issue: Right or Wrong **3.30** Resources for Teaching Christianity in Secondary Schools **4.00** Languages: Make German Your Business **5.00** Business and Training: Career Moves **5.45** Open University: Catalysts Against Pollution **6.10** Four Towns and a Circus **6.35** Made Without Flaw

HTV

5.30am ITV Morning News (61762)
6.00 GMTV (5486781)
9.25 Trisha (T) (8618410)
10.30 This Morning (T) (44230304)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (4728946)
12.30 ITV Lunchtime News (T) (4207149)
12.55 Shortland Street Tiffany and Carla lock horns (9634859)
1.30 Home and Away Joel is suspended from the police force (T) (35347526)
1.55 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous American talk show (T) (5381930)
2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (9114138)
3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (4462743)
3.15 HTV News (T) (4461014)
3.20 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (4482507) **3.30** Rosie and Jim (9435120) **3.40** The Wombles (9422656) **3.55** Cow and Chicken (9445507) **4.10** Snap (6887014) **4.40** How 2 (8241209)
5.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (7728)
5.30 WEST: Can You Keep a Secret? (T) (994)
5.30 WALES: Night Owls Two child stage actors (3/6) (T) (994)
5.58 HTV Weather (987781)
6.00 HTV News (T) (255)
6.26 HTV Crimestoppers (511897)
6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather (T) (507)



Marlon (Mark Charnock) and Scott (Ben Freeman) come to blows (7pm)

7.00 CHOICE **Emmerdale** An eventful one-hour special. Mandy tries to win back Paddy (T) (9385)
8.00 The Bill Chief Inspector Conway appears on a radio chat show to appeal for help in tracing a maniac who abducted a woman (T) (8033)
9.00 Peak Practice Joanna's life hangs in the balance as she's held at knifepoint by a runaway mother with a dark secret. Starring Gary Mavers, Haydn Gwynne and Joseph Millson (T) (8897)
10.00 Wonderful You Henry and Marshall are licking their wounds after Clare's double rejection (3/7) (T) (8656)
11.00 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (862120)
11.20 HTV News and Weather (T) (562743)
11.30 Renegade Bounty-hunter Reno becomes a media celebrity by going after a San Diego party organiser (18217)
12.30am The Haunted Fishtank TV review (92724)
1.00 Airwolf The helicopter develops a mind of its own (r) (4577705)
1.55 Judge Judy Real-life domestic legal cases (7865989)
2.20 Wish You Were Here? (r) (T) (9935908)
2.45 Dead Men's Tales Sheck Exley and Ken Fulgham's perilous diving expedition into a network of lava tubes on the volcanic island of Lanzarote (r) (93569)
3.15 Football Extra Highlights (r) (8853182)
4.10 Coach Dauber refuses Hayden's car-buying advice (41201618)
4.35 Soundtrax (33804144)
4.45 ITV Nightscreen (2943366)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.20-12.30pm Central News; Weather (7966014)
12.55 Home and Away (4215168)
1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4870762)
2.10-2.40 Heart of the Country (56119410)
3.15-3.20 Central News; Weather (4461014)
5.30 Shortland Street (994)
6.00-6.30 Central News at Six; Weather (255)
11.20-11.30 Central News; Weather (562743)
1.00-1.55am Highlander (4577705)
4.05 Central Jobfinder '99 (1509989)
5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (3013298)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.15pm Westcountry News (4728946)
12.27-12.30 Illuminations (7974033)
12.55-1.25 Westcountry Lunchtime Live; Weather (4215168)
1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4870762)
2.10-2.40 Home and Away (56119410)
3.15-3.20 Westcountry News; Weather (4461014)
4.58-5.00 Birthday People (7577965)
5.30 Our House (994)
6.00-6.30 Westcountry Live; Weather (255)
11.20-11.30 Westcountry News; Weather (562743)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (4728946) **5.30 Surprise Chefs** (10/10) (994) **6.00-6.30 Meridian Tonight** (T) (255) **7.59-8.00 Meridian Weather** (493472) **11.20 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (562743) **11.30 Cyber Cafe** (78743) **12.00-12.30 Pier Pressure** (r) (13705) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (28298)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: **12.19pm Anglia Air Watch** (7985149) **12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (7966014) **5.25-6.00 About Anglia** (8787236) **6.00-6.30 Anglia News** (T) (255) **11.19 Anglia Air Watch** (937168) **11.20 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (562743) **11.30 The Thoughts of Chairman Alf** (T) (78743) **12.00-12.30 Short Story Cinema** (r) (13705)

S4C

Starts: **6.00am Sesame Street** (r) (88508656) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (67551385) **9.00 Ysgolion:** Science in Focus (29611236) **9.20 What the Papers Said** (29464491) **9.30 Eureka** (74732781) **9.45 Addysg Rhyw** (74737236) **10.00 The Number Crew** (14784507) **10.10 TVM** (91576472) **10.25 How We Used to Live** (91595507) **10.45 Worlds of Faith** (96878491) **11.00 First Edition** (15648052) **11.15 Stage One** (15638675) **11.30 Powerhouse** (T) (68903965) **12.00 Bewitched** (T) (97782033) **12.30pm Sesame Street** (T) (26517878) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (67554472) **1.30 The Ocean World of John Stoneman** (T) (95100656) **1.55 FILM: English without Tears** (T) (78621656) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (67887656) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (678 99491) **4.30 Ricki Lake** (T) (67895675) **5.00 Planed Plant** (90870101) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (67819255) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (93135588) **6.10 Heno** (T) (86618491) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (90890965) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (67896304) **8.00 Y Sioe Gelf** (T) (90876385) **8.30 Pengelli** (T) (90888120) **9.00 Tair Chwaer** (r) (37047526) **10.00 Brookside** (T) (72352878) **10.35 Queer as Folk** (5/8) (T) (52963472) **11.15 Hoddle and the Healer** (T) (16177830) **12.20am The 11 O'Clock Show** (71060569) **12.50 Smack the Pony** (T) (85056873) **1.20 Fusion** (T) (22124366) **1.50 Diwedd 4.00 Ysgolion**

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (r) (34120)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (10217)
9.00 Schools: Science in Focus (4095385) **9.20** What the Papers Said (8528101) **9.30** Eureka (8480675) **9.45** Stop, Look, Listen (8478830) **10.00** The Number Crew (5706946) **10.10** TVM (9676120) **10.25** How We Used to Live (9695255) **10.45** Worlds of Faith (9925859) **11.00** First Edition VI (3899588) **11.15** Stage One (3812439)
11.30 Powerhouse (T) (5830)
12.00 Sesame Street (T) (65878)
12.30pm Bewitched (r) (T) (83762)
1.00 Pet Rescue (T) (13304)
1.30 Little Gems Collecting fun (59285946)
1.45 That Midnight Kiss (1949) Mario Lanza makes his screen debut as an unknown singer who becomes a star. Musical drama, with Kathryn Grayson. Directed by Norman Taurog (T) (41620830)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (385)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (120)
4.30 Countdown (T) (3776526)
4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (5884217)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (656)
6.00 King of the Hill Bobby, Connie and Joseph explore a cave (r) (T) (897)
6.30 Home Improvement (T) (596588)
6.55 Planet Pop Magazine featuring pop news and reviews (T) (371491)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (870323)
7.50 Farmed Out A retiring Monmouth farmer despairs over the sale of his livestock and machinery (T) (416323)
8.00 Classic British Cars The 1950s trend to design ever-smaller cars (5/8) (T) (7694)
8.30 Brookside (T) (6101)
9.00 CHOICE **Hoddle and the Healer** The former England coach Glenn Hoddle discusses the events which surrounded his sacking (T) (6439)
10.00 Father Ted The trio make sacrifices for Lent (r) (T) (66507)
10.30 Queer as Folk While Stuart is busy making new friends, his sister Marie discovers he's as unreliable as ever, and Nathan leaves Janice in a fit of despair (5/8) (T) (661615)
11.10 The 11 O'Clock Show Satirical comedy (T) (241965)

The low-budget Irish film-makers Michael and Enda Hughes (11.45pm)

11.45 Fusion Profile following the film-makers Michael and Enda Hughes (T) (669236)
12.15am Darkness Before Dawn (TVM 1992) A woman scarred by the memory of abuse becomes dependent on drugs. John Patterson directs (465705)
2.00 Joe MacBeth (1955) A woman persuades her gullible husband to murder his corrupt bosses so he can succeed them to power. Gangster drama, starring Paul Douglas and Ruth Roman. Directed by Ken Hughes (41881)
3.30 The Ring of Truth Humorous yarn about an aspiring Hollywood actress (r) (46231)
4.00 Schools

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport Current events (2751746)
7.00 WideWorld Part three. Katherine Higgins looks into how great houses were afforded (r) (T) (8667439)
7.30 Milkshake! (2182965)
7.35 Wimzie's House (r) (4161694)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (2384217)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (r) (2383588)
9.00 Oasis Africa (r) (T) (7818435)
9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (r) (4934588)
9.35 The Oprah Winfrey Show (r) (9538156)
10.25 Sunset Beach (T) (3139149)
11.15 Leeza (4462156)
12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (2387304)
12.30pm Family Affairs Dave is in an apologetic mood (r) (T) (1765526)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Sally learns Clarke saved CJ's life (T) (8659410)
1.30 The Roseanne Show Entertainment and chat; 5 News Update (1764897)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (9643526)
2.30 Good Afternoon Lifestyle magazine; 5 News Update (1241014)
3.30 Deceptions (TVM 1985) Part one. Twin sisters exchange places, but their prank has tragic consequences. Drama, with Stefanie Powers and Gina Lollobrigida. Directed by Robert Chenault/Melville Shavelson (T) (5643651)
5.20 5 News (66490205)
5.30 100 Per Cent (2980694)
6.00 5 News; Weather (2987507)
6.30 Family Affairs Josh starts a new venture (T) (2978859)
7.00 Knight Rider Michael helps a stunt-show owner to fend off a greedy land developer (r) (9614014)
7.30 Nature of Oz How Australians protect their communication systems from breakdown due to animal interference (T); 5 News Update (2967743)
8.00 Crime Report Investigating what happens to the 400,000 cars stolen each year in Britain (4/6) (9623762)
8.30 Sex for Sale! What's the Story? The Sussex prostitute Natalie Davis assesses the implications of legalising brothels — a move the Dutch parliament has recently decided to implement (9642897)
9.00 Broken Arrow (1996) Premiere. A pilot, Christian Slater, is double-crossed by his veteran partner John Travolta, who takes off in a top-secret bomber with a plan to extort money from the US Government by aiming the plane's nuclear warheads at a major American city. Directed by John Woo (T); 5 News Update (8071120)
11.00 Strippers Behind the scenes of the American lap-dancing industry, chatting with the women who can make a fortune by baring all (9372946)
12.15am Two Gus encounters Booth's former lover while attempting to unlock the secrets of his brother's past (3668811)
1.10 The Jack Docherty Show With guest Phil Cornwall (6409811)
1.50 Live and Dangerous Indycar racing from Miami (26850569)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H Kerryn hangs herself and the women plan to use Len to set up Joan (7678366)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (8342873)

SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

● For further listings see Saturday's *Vision*

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (52217) **7.30** The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (31528) **8.30** Hollywood Squares (66192) **9.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (13149) **10.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (80236) **11.00** Guilty! (40472) **12.00** Jenny Jones (35149) **1.00pm** Mad About You (51588) **1.30** Jeopardy (15385) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (28782) **3.00** Jenny Jones (40507) **4.00** Guilty! (29014) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (9217) **6.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (2491) **6.30** Dream Team (3743) **7.00** The Simpsons (9588) **7.30** The Simpsons (2256) **8.00** Rescue Medics (9694) **8.30** Coppers (8101) **9.00** World's Wildest Police Videos (50472) **10.00** Bloody Foreigners! (80859) **11.00** Dream Team (20743) **11.30** Star Trek: Voyager (92878) **12.30am** The Commish (52328) **1.30** Long Play (6257601)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels.
To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51)
Fallen (1998)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)
Amistad (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 58)
Flubber (1997)
Starship Troopers (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58)
Butcher Boy (1997)

SKY PREMIER

6.00am We the Jury (1996) (55323) **8.00 The Wedding (1997)** (17656) **10.00 Tom and Huck (1995)** (18472) **12.00 The Directors:** Norman Jewison (28859) **1.00pm** Femmes Fatales: Susan Sarandon (37507) **2.00 We the Jury (1996)** (75781) **4.00 The Wedding (1997)** (5491) **6.00 Tom and Huck (1995)** (52217) **8.00 The Chamber (1996)** (67762) **10.00 LA Confidential (1997)** (65838323) **12.20am The Spitfire Grill (1996)** (903415) **2.15 Dead Again (1991)** (910892) **4.05 Flirting with Disaster (1996)** (400095)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.25am A Fight for Justice (1996) (64125168) **7.00 Godzilla vs Gigan (1972)** (76897) **9.00 That's Right, You're Wrong (1939)** (39878) **11.00 The Wind in the Willows (1996)** (64946) **1.00 Godzilla vs Gigan (1972)** (33694) **3.00 That's Right, You're Wrong (1939)** (56694) **5.00 They Won't Believe Me (1947)** (80101) **7.00 The Wind in the Willows (1996)** (67149) **9.00 National Lampoon's The Don's Analyst (1997)** (68491) **11.00 Tales from the Crypt Presents: Bordello of Blood (1996)** (30526) **12.30am To Sir, With Love II (TVM 1996)** (771163) **2.05 Gold in the Streets (1996)** (814279) **3.45 Midnight Crossing (1988)** (396328)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Contraband (1940) (7767507) **6.00 The Hunchback of Notre Dame (1939)** (2160656) **8.00 Champion (1949)** (2165101) **10.00 For a Few Dollars More (1965)** (12291946) **12.10am The French Connection II (1975)** (8065415) **2.05 Quintet (1979)** (2002569) **4.05 Monsieur Beaucaire (1946)** (5692279)

FILMFOUR

6.00pm Things Change (1988) (27461323) **7.40 Sara** (7695168) **8.00 French Kiss (1995)** (4797675) **10.00 Amateur (1994)** (9551946) **11.45 For Ever Mozart (1996)** (6598120) **1.15am The Brood (1979)** (1200322) **2.50 Eat Drink Man Woman (1994)** (56170537)

TNT

9.00pm Marlowe (1969) (33537878) **11.00 Ransom (1956)** (23450014) **1.00am Pride of the Marines (1945)** (50148989) **3.15 The Sheepman (1958)** (13565892)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre **7.15** V-Max **7.45** Total Sport **8.15** You're On Sky Sports! **9.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics **10.00** Football League Review **11.00** Max Power **12.00** Aerobics **12.30pm** Football Special **2.30** Spanish Football **4.00** Golf **5.00** World Wrestling Federation: Live Wire **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** Inside Scottish Football **7.30** Fastrax **8.00** Live Greyhound Racing **10.00** Sports Centre **10.15** You're On Sky Sports! **11.00** Inside Scottish Football **12.00** Sports Centre **12.15am** You're On Sky Sports! **1.00** Premier Snooker League **3.00** Fastrax **3.30** Sports Centre **3.45** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics Oz Style **7.30** Sports Centre **7.45** Racing News **8.15** Moto-Plus **8.45** Sports Centre **9.00** Fish TV **10.00** International Bowls **12.00** Motor Racing **2.00pm** Total Sport **2.30** World Motor Sport **6.00** Sports Unlimited **7.00** Golf **8.00** Women's Golf **10.00** Rugby League Academy **11.00** Sports Unlimited **12.00** Golf **1.00am** Women's Golf **3.00** Sports Centre **3.15** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00am World Wrestling Federation: Live Wire **1.00pm** Fish TV **2.00** Golden Age of Motor Racing: A to Z of Motor Sport **2.30** Wonderful World of Golf **3.30** International Bowls **5.30** Rebel Sports **6.00** Rugby League Academy, **7.00** Fish TV **8.00** Premier Snooker League **10.00** Tales from the Premiership **10.30** Boxing Superbouts **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

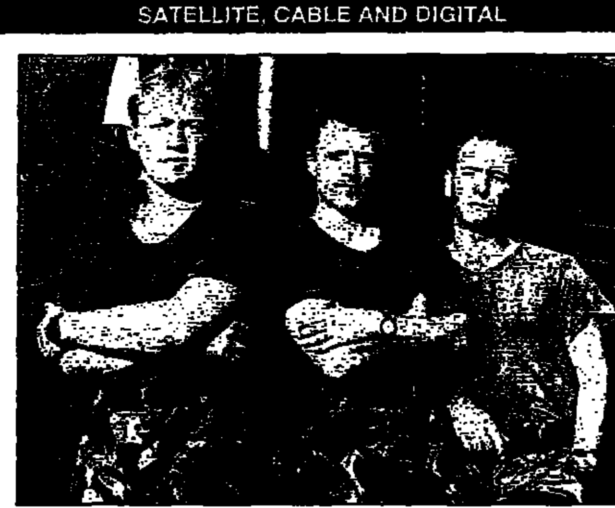
7.30am Rally **8.00** Figure Skating **10.00** Football: Eurogoals **11.00** Rally **11.30** Tennis **1.00pm** Live Figure Skating **4.00** Live Women's Tennis **5.30** Live Figure Skating **9.15** Live Tennis **10.00** Boxing **11.00** Rally **11.30** US Golf **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.00** The Bill **9.30** The House of Eliott **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Bugs **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.25** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** Ever Decreasing Circles **7.40** Dad's Army **8.20** The Brittas Empire **9.00** Red Dwarf **9.40** Crime Traveller **10.45** Bugs **11.50** The Bill **12.20am** The Bill **12.50** Blackadder Goes Forth **1.25** French and Saunders **2.00** Dangerfield **3.00** Shopping with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Within These Walls **7.00** Holding the Fort **7.30** The Odd Couple **8.00** Families **8.30** Mind Your Language **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **11.00** The Gentle Touch **12.00** Classic Coronation Street **12.30pm** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** Mind Your Language **1.30** Me and My Girl **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Professionals **5.00** Hart to Hart **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** The Professionals **8.00** The Benny Hill Show **9.00** The Sweeney **10.00** Hale and Pace **10.30** Wheeltappers and Shunters' Social Club **11.00** Granada Men and Motors



An evening to be spent in the company of the King's Fusiliers in back-to-back episodes of *Soldier, Soldier* (Carlton Select, 8pm)

CARLTON SELECT

5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** My Two Wives **6.30** Our House **7.00** Shine On, Harvey Moon **8.00** Soldier, Soldier **9.00** Soldier, Soldier **10.00** Soldier, Soldier **11.00** Soldier, Soldier **12.00** Soldier, Soldier **12.30am** Gridlock **1.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Gummi Bears **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Tale Spin **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.25** Classic Toons **8.45** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **9.00** The Adventures of Spot **9.05** Animal Shelf **9.15** Pocket Dragons **9.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **9.55** The Toothbrush Family **10.00** Bite Size **10.10** Rosie and Jim **10.30** The Big Garage **10.45** PB and J Otter **11.00** Sesame Street **12.00** The Adventures of Spot **12.05pm** Animal Shelf **12.15** Pocket Dragons **12.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **12.55** The Toothbrush Family **1.00** Bite Size **1.10** Rosie and Jim **1.30** The Big Garage **1.45** PB and J Otter **2.00** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.30** Quack Pack **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** An Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00** FILM: Aladdin and the King of Thieves (1995) **8.20** Honey, I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **9.05** Double Dinosaurs **10.00** Home Improvement **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Dr Quinn: Medicine Woman **12.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Adventures of Dodo **6.05** Power Rangers Turbo **6.55** Spiderman **7.20** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.30** Donkey Kong Country **8.00** Hero Turtles **8.25** Incredible Hulk **8.50** Iron Man **9.15** Fantastic Four **9.40** X-Men **10.05** Casper **10.30** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.55** EekIStravaganza **11.05** Bobby's World **11.30** Life with Louie **11.55** Home to Rent **12.05pm** Dennis and Gnasher **12.30** Donkey Kong Country **1.00** Mowgli **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.55** The Incredible Hulk **2.20** Iron Man **2.45** Fantastic Four **3.10** X-Men **3.30** X-Press **3.35** Spiderman **4.00** Goosebumps **4.25** Hero Turtles **4.50** Casper **5.00** Dennis and Gnasher **5.30** Ace Ventura **6.00** Donkey Kong Country **6.30** EekIStravaganza **6.55** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Rocko's Modern Life **6.30** Bruno the Kid **7.00** CatDog **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** The Wild Thornberrys **8.30** Arthur **9.00** CBBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Papa Beaver Stories **11.00** The Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear etc **12.00** Rugrats **12.30pm** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Paddington Bear etc **2.30** CBBC **3.30** Doug **4.00** Three Friends and Jerry **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Renford Rejects **6.30** Moesha **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

7.00am USA High **7.30** City Guys **8.00** Saved by the Bell: New Class **8.30** Hang Time **9.00** Tempest! **9.50** On the Make **10.00** Echo Point **10.30** Hollyoaks **11.00** Sweet Valley High **11.30** Ready or Not **12.00** Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **12.30pm** In the House **1.00** Sweat **1.30** Tempest! **2.20** On the Make **2.30** Hollyoaks **3.00** Ready or Not **3.30** City Guys **4.00** Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **4.30** In the House **5.00** Saved by the Bell: New Class **5.30** Sweet Valley High **6.00** USA High **6.30** Rush **6.45** Bangs **7.00** Sweat **7.30** Hang Time

BRAVO

8.00pm Martial Law **9.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **9.30** Cops **10.00** Late Lounge **10.30** Erotic Confessions **11.00** **FILM: Scissors (1991)** **1.00am** Erotic Confessions **1.30** Late Lounge **2.00** Martial Law **3.00** **FILM: Revenge of the Calendar Girls (1995)** **5.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **5.30** Cops **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Jenny **7.30** Grace Under Fire **8.00** Ellen **8.30** Spin City **9.00** Drop the Dead Donkey **9.30** Whose Line Is it Anyway? **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show **12.00** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00am** Taxi **1.30** Frontline **2.00** Dr Katz **2.30** Fibs and Fibs **3.00** Nightstand **3.30** Abbott and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 6pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Buck Rogers in the 25th Century **10.00** Quantum Leap **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** New Alfred Hitchcock **12.00** Twilight Zone **1.00pm** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Buck Rogers in the 25th Century **4.00** Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Time Trax **7.00** Quantum Leap **8.00** V **9.00** Twin Peaks **10.00** **FILM: Fear No Evil (1981)** **12.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **1.00am** **FILM: Hemoglobin (1997)** **2.45** Sci-Focus Special **3.00** Dark Shadows **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Today's Gourmet **6.30** Yan Can Cook: The Best of Asia **7.00** Homemaker **7.30** Period Rooms **8.00** Wedding Story **8.30** A Baby Story **9.00** Simply Painting **9.30** The Great Gardening Plot **10.00** Instant Gardens **10.30** Two's Country Cooking **11.00** The Diceman **11.25** The Home and Leisure House **11.30** Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **12.00** Our House Down Under **12.30pm** Antiques Trail **1.00** Our House **1.30** Home Savvy **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again **3.00** This Old House **3.30** Charlie West Fishing

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** The Car Show **5.00** Hitler-Stalin Dangerous Liaisons **6.00** Wildlife SOS **6.30** Untamed Africa **7.30** Futureworld **8.00** Great Escapes **8.30** Quantum: The Tony Bullimore Story **9.00** Trailblazers **10.00** Betty's Voyage **11.00** Submarine **12.00** Mysteries of the Ancient Ones **1.00am** Hitler-Stalin Dangerous Liaisons **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00am The New Adventures of Black Beauty **12.30pm** Hollywood Safari **1.30** Crocodile Hunter **2.00** Breed All About It: German Shepherds **2.30** Human/Nature **3.30** Harry's Practice **4.00** Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures **4.30** Animal Doctor **5.00** Pet Rescue **5.30** Crocodile Hunter **6.00** The New Adventures of Black Beauty **6.30** Lassie **7.00** Rediscovery of the World **8.00** Animal Doctor **8.30** Totally Australia **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** The Last Paradises **10.30** Animal Detectives **11.00** All-Bird TV **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Numbats **7.30** The Subterraneans **8.00** Island of the Giant Bears **9.00** Natural Born Killers: The Secret Leopard **10.00** Amate: The Great Fig Tree **11.00** Beeman **11.30** Servals: The Elegant Predator **12.00** The Shark Files: Sharks of the Red Triangle

HISTORY

4.00pm D-Day: Total Story H-Hour **5.00** River Boats **6.00** The Greatest Pharaohs **7.00** Rockets: First Step to the Stars

CARLTON FOOD

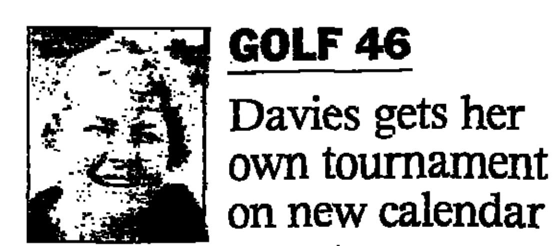
9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **10.00** The Green Gourmet **10.30** First Taste **11.00** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.30** Ideal Home Cooks **12.00** Food Network Daily **12.30pm** Loyd's Louisiana **1.00** Coxon's Kitchen College **1.30** Thoroughly Modern British **2.00** Chez Bruno **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Nordic Nosh **3.30** Ideal Home Cooks **4.00** Tessa's Tastebuds **4.30** Lunch with Ed Baines

LIVING

6.00am Tiny and Crew **6.20** 10 plus 2 **6.40** Greedysaurus **6.45** Philbert the Frog **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts **7.00** Practical Parenting **7.05** Professor Bubble **7.30** Caillou **7.35** Bug Alert **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** Babaloos **8.30** Tiny Tales **8.35** Tiny & Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Special Babies **9.30** Roseanne Show **10.00** Jerry Springer **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Through the Keyhole **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **1.40** Maury Povich **2.30** Special Babies **3.00** The Living Room **3.50** Michael Cole **4.40** Through the Keyhole **5.10** Heat Is On **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.15** Jerry Springer **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** LA Law **9.00** **FILM: Maid to Order (1987)** **11.00** Sex Files II **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

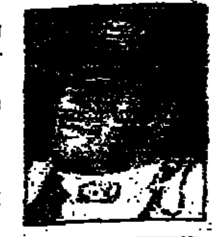
5.00am Folk Songs **5.30** Old is Gold **6.00** Aap Ki Farmaish **6.30** Usha Uthap Show **7.00** Faith **7.30** Daily News **8.00** Out and About **8.30** Tara **9.00** Himalaya's Haaralem **10.00** Stage Plays **11.00** Khana Khazana **11.30** Parampara **12.00** FILM **3.00pm** Nokhatline Rai **3.30** Cine Magic **4.00** Akbar Birbal **4.30** Top 10 **5.30** Aashirwad **6.00** 1-10 **6.30** Humm Tara Rum **7.00** Jee Saheb **7.30** Chalo Cinema **8.00** News **8.30** Daraar **9.00** Do Aur Do Paanch **9.30** Zanjeeran **10.00** Hadd Kar Di **10.30** Mahabharat **11.30** Yaadon Ke Rang **12.00** News **12.30am** Business Week **1.00** Bangla TV **1.30** Parivartan **2.00** FILM **4.30** Lolly-Pop



GOLF 46
Davies gets her own tournament on new calendar

SPORT

MOTOR SPORT 50
Franchitti opts to win his spurs in the States



Keegan forced to pick new recruits



Parlour: first cap

By Oliver Holt, football correspondent

KEVIN KEEGAN was last night wrestling with the prospect of gambling England's hopes of qualifying for the European championship on the performances of two international debutants after injuries and withdrawals from his squad played havoc with his preparations for the group five tie against Poland on Saturday.

No *sooner had England's* part-time coach started counting his players in than he had to start counting them out. There was even a depressing sort of symmetry about it. They *came and went two by two and left* Keegan to watch the flood waters rising. Robbie Fowler and Graeme Le Saux, showing better judgment than on that afternoon at Stamford Bridge a few weeks ago, gained admittance when they buried their differences in the presence of Keegan.

Even as they were busy marvelling about how much they had in common and arranging to get together the next time the *Antiques Roadshow* visits Toxteth, though, it was emerging that David Batty and Andy Hinchcliffe had already been discounted from Keegan's plans. The absence of Batty, who has hardly *kicked a ball since he joined Leeds* United from Newcastle United earlier this year and is now suffering from a chest infection, is a grievous blow to England hopes.

Already without Paul Ince, who is suspended, Nicky Butt, who was not selected, and Paul Gascoigne, who is not fit, Batty's absence means that Keegan has been confronted with a *dearth of experienced players to fill* the holding role at the centre of midfield. It now seems probable that he will turn to Tottenham Hotspur's midfield anchor, Tim Sherwood, who has been in outstanding form since he moved to White Hart Lane from Blackburn Rovers but has never been capped by his country.

Keegan is still unsure of his starting side but the indications he has given are that he will play David Beckham, who is expected to shake off a calf strain, as the creative half *of the central midfield partnership* and Ray Parlour, rather than Darren Anderton, on the right. Parlour, too, is uncapped.

On the left, there appear to be few *options other than Steve McManaman*, who has been embroiled in his own problems at Liverpool and who himself has spent much of the season battling against a succession of niggling injuries. Keegan, in any case, is a confirmed admirer of McManaman, so an unfamiliar England midfield four is beginning to take shape for a match against the Poles that England must win to resuscitate their chances of qualifying for the 2000 championships.

Youth Cup trail 48
Carsley's £3.4m move 48

To make matters worse, there are *also serious doubts about the availa*bility of Michael Owen, who is having intensive treatment for a hamstring injury, and of Chris Sutton, who has a groin strain. Both *are likely to be ruled out of conten*tion for a place tomorrow or Thursday. Andy Cole, once Keegan's talisman at St James' Park, is now the favourite to start in attack alongside *the man who succeeded him at* Newcastle, Alan Shearer.

Another striker, possibly Dion Dublin, of Aston Villa, could be called into the squad today. To complete the depressing duality of injury news, there was growing concern about the shoulder problem that ruled David Seaman out of training and the back problem that has laid Nigel Martyn low, too. With both goalkeepers scheduled for further *treatment today*, Keegan called the Leeds teenager, Paul Robinson, into the squad to play opposite Ian Walker in training at Bisham Abbey. After all that, the predictable news *about the rapprochement* between Fowler and Le Saux must have seemed like a piece of driftwood to a drowning man. They, at least, are fit and raring to play.

Keegan seemed delighted by the fact that the two men had shaken hands as soon as they arrived at the team hotel at Burnham Beeches on Sunday night, unbidden and unscripted. The three of them later met together in what the Football Association described as a "clear-the-air meeting" that lasted about 20 minutes and was conducted in an amicable atmosphere. "During the meeting," an FA spokesman said, "Robbie Fowler and Graeme Le Saux made it clear to Kevin Keegan that there was no personal animosity between them. Both are keen to remain together with the squad and are happy to continue as international team-mates."

Keegan, who made a point of shaking hands with all the players when they arrived at Burnham and moved from table to table as the squad ate their evening meal, was eager to seize on some good news, too. "I'm delighted that Graeme and Robbie were able to shake hands even before I asked them to come into a meeting," Keegan said. "I'm satisfied now that our preparations for such an important game will not be disrupted either as a squad or as individuals by what may have happened in the past."

Other issues, unfortunately, remain alive, if not kicking. Keegan has done everything right in the build-up to this match so far and avoided all the pitfalls *that Glenn* Hoddle careered into. Now that the screaming has started, though, and the epidemic has visited him just as it used to visit his predecessor, *Keegan's mettle is about to be tested.*

McRae may switch to Formula One



McRae and his co-driver, Nicky Grist, become airborne in their Ford Focus during the Portuguese Rally yesterday. Photograph: Jose Manuel Ribeiro

From Jeremy Hart in Oporto

TWO hundred feet below the balcony of Colin McRae's luxu*ry apartment in Monaco is the* world's most famous grand prix track. It is a circuit that the former world rally champion may find himself racing on *in the future.*

In what would be one of the most astonishing switches in motor sport, it emerged yesterday that the Scot is to be given *the chance to try his luck* behind the wheel of a Formula One car later this year. If he impresses — and some experienced observers feel that he can — then an offer to make the leap from rallying to the grand prix circuit could follow.

McRae drives for Ford in *the world rally championship* and it is his outstanding performances in the new Focus car — not least yesterday, when he took an extraordinary lead in the Rally of Portugal — that have attracted the attentions of those backing the Stewart-Ford grand prix team.

"Colin is on a par with Michael Schumacher," Martin Whitaker, Ford's director of European motor sport, said. "They both have the same mys*tique and they are both good* in all conditions.

"In fact, Colin is streets ahead of Formula One drivers in terms of being a complete driver. You could put him in any car and he would be quick, a Formula one car included. We will give him a test later this year and, if he's quick enough ... well, let's wait and see. The test is not for fun."

McRae admitted that the idea of competing alongside Schumacher, David Coulthard, Jacques Villeneuve and *the rest appeals to him.* "To drive in Formula One is something I have been thinking about for quite a while," he said. "If I do the test and I am *competitive, then I must con*sider what I might be getting into. If I am committed, there is no reason why I couldn't drive in Formula One."

Never mind the fact that McRae has said of watching the sport: "I find grand prix racing really boring to watch. Once I fell asleep during a race because it was so dull."

Nor would it be the first time that McRae, the world rally champion in 1995, has driven a Formula One car. Three years ago, he swapped his Subaru for the Jordan of Martin Brundle in a publicity stunt for their sponsors.

He started the car without a problem and eased out of the pit lane. For the first few laps, his gear changes were erratic, but with each circuit of the track at Silverstone, he looked more comfortable.

"He's really getting the hang of it," Brundle said as he watched. His lap times came down steadily and, although he ran wide on to the grass at one point and later span the car, he came within four per cent of Brundle's time in the same car.

Not since Vic Elford, the winner of the 1968 Monte Carlo Rally who finished fourth in the French Grand Prix at Rouen in the same year, has a rally driver also made it to the top of the Formula One ladder, or, indeed, vice versa. The disciplines are so vastly different that few have attempted even to bridge the divide, a chasm that has grown as the technology put into them has advanced.

Last night, McRae led the Rally of Portugal by just under a minute after one of the best drives of his career. In an overweight car, he left the rest of the field trailing on the stages near Oporto.

"I was not expecting to be leading with the car being overweight," McRae said, "but if we can be this competitive here, then it looks good for the rest of the year."

His remorseless driving has left him on course for a second successive rally victory, after his triumph in the Safari Rally, winning four of the eight special stages yesterday and finishing joint-fastest in another. His lead of 49sec was all the more remarkable considering that he won the race last year by just 2.1sec from Carlos Sainz, of Spain.

This time, his leading challenger is not the Spaniard but Richard Burns, a fellow Briton, in a Suburu, with Sainz, driving a Toyota, only a fraction of a second farther back. Tommi Makinen, the world champion, is struggling in ninth place after suffering transmission problems in his Mitsubishi.



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Julian Muscat's new Flat racing column
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TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1672

ACROSS
2 Faithful; unceasing (8)
6 Blanket with hole for head (6)
8 Great fright (6)
9 Merciful (7)
10 (Establish) worth (5)
12 An exclusion of responsibility (10)
16 Non-serious student (10)
18 Unsociable type (5)
20 A stiff hair (7)
21 American biscuit (6)
22 An edible seed; one with *open* (6)
23 Roof tiles; a painful condition (8)

DOWN
1 Exclusive shared-interest group (7)
2 Eng. county bordering only *one other* (8)
3 Protective wrapper (6)
4 Girl's name: type of fool (5)
5 Castle tower (6)
7 Happen together: occupy same space (8)
11 Little Rock its capital (8)
13 One slept on (8)
14 Egyptian dynasty; Gk. astronomer (7)
15 Slope below fort (6)
17 Washington —; — Berlin (6)
19 Girl's name: I complain *(rev.)* (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1671
ACROSS: 6 Guaranteeing 7 Furore 8 Inlaid 9 Race 10 Test case 12 Doorstep 16 Race 18 Hiccup 20 Velvet 21 Mispronounce
DOWN: 1 Saboteur 2 Talent 3 Ethics 4 Veal 5 Envies 6 Gouda 11 Caroline 13 Osiris 14 Tiptoe 15 Pavlov 17 Crewe 19 Copt

Henman's form causes concern

From Alix Ramsay in Key Biscayne, Florida

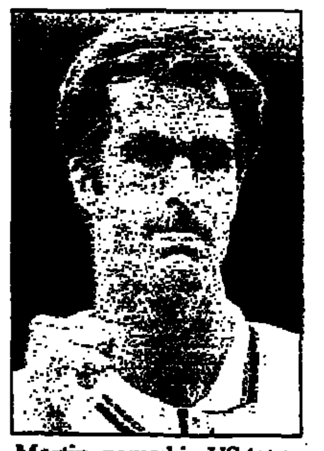
LOOKING on the positive side, Tim Henman's defeat at *the hands of Jerome Golmard* on Sunday night at least gave him a few extra days at home to prepare for the Davis Cup. It may not be much but, when *times are hard, even the short*est of straws is worth clutching. And, at the moment, times are hard.

Yesterday, the United States announced their Davis Cup squad — Todd Martin, Jim Courier, Jan-Michael Gambill and Alex O'Brien — at a restaurant on Ocean Drive here. There were no surprises in the selection and very little interest, either.

Forced to compete with honking taxis and the well-heeled and well-muscled strutting their stuff in the sunshine, Tom Gullikson, the US team captain, was fighting a losing battle. With March Madness, the NCAA basketball extravaganza, coming to a head this weekend, the thought of a small group of Americans playing tennis in Birmingham pales into insignificance.

On the British side of the Atlantic, however, there was more than enough cause for *concern. Gullikson may have sounded a little desperate as* he begged the Americans to get behind their brave boys, but there was a hint of steel in his tone as he pointed out that *his men have a 13-2 winning* record over David Lloyd's chaps. Henman and Greg Rusedski have both beaten Martin, but only once, and that was a couple of years ago.

When Henman beat him at the US Open, the tall and slow-moving Martin's arm was so badly injured that he could hardly lift a racket.



Martin: named in US team

When Rusedski beat him the next year, Martin had spent seven months trying to recover from the same injury.

"The pressure is on them to win," Gullikson said. "They are playing at home with their two top ten players, so you would have to say they are the slight favourites." But whatever Gullikson says in public, he will have been greatly heartened by Henman's miserable performance against Golmard.

He started poorly and got progressively worse. Given half a chance to salvage the situation in the second set, he wasted it, losing 6-4, 7-6. "It seemed the worse I played, the more I mixed it up, the harder he found it," Henman said with marvellous logic.

"In the second set, I stayed back a little bit more and that seemed to work. But you've got to be able to keep that going once you get your chance and I didn't do that." Gullikson will be pleased.

Pete Sampras has not been pleased for a while now. Still struggling with his form, he reached the last 16 with a *workmanlike 7-5, 6-3 defeat of* Jonas Bjorkman, but he was not happy. "I would have been happier if I could have broken him a couple of times more," he said, "but I got through and that's the main thing."

As if that was not bad enough, Sampras discovered that his next match, against Albert Costa, had been moved out of the spotlight on stadium court and downgraded to the grandstand court. "It's an absolute shock to me," he said, looking more stupefied than shocked. "How many grand slams or tournaments do you have to win to get on stadium court."

Lindsay Davenport knew how Sampras felt. She just about survived her late-night encounter with Silvia Farina, winning 6-4, 7-5. She, like Sampras, would like to regain her No 1 ranking but, like Sampras, she is not playing at her best.

Looking a bit sluggish and surprised by how well Farina was playing, she found herself 5-3 down in the second set before she woke up. From that point on, she conceded just two more points and now plays Elena Likhotseva for a *place in the quarter-finals.*

